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CIS Peacekeeping Forces Not Ready for Operations

MK0110122693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 1 Oct 93 p 4

[Ilya Bulavinov report: "Creating CIS Peacekeeping Forces. CIS Collective Forces Could Hardly Be Used"]

[Text] According to the agreement reached during the Moscow meeting of CIS heads of state, the work on setting up the Commonwealth's collective peacekeeping forces [CPF] should be completed by 1 October. However, the feasibility of creating these formations by the aforementioned date have raised serious doubts among military specialists. Your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent Ilya Bulavinov comments on the situation with regard to the efforts to set up the CPF and the reorganization of the Main Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

The idea of creating CIS Joint Armed Forces emerged immediately after the Soviet Army ceased to exist and the newly independent states started forming their own armed forces. Creating this mechanism of cooperation under a single command would contribute to ensuring collective security, establishing a joint air defense system, and also promptly carrying out peacekeeping functions should local conflicts break out. But all the efforts by the Joint Armed Forces Main Command and former Commander in Chief Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov met with a lack of understanding and offended disgruntlement on the part of the new defense chiefs of most CIS member states. However, very soon the drastic heightening of tensions on the Tajik-Afghan border and the threat that this conflict may spread further presented the Commonwealth's leaders with the need to set up joint military formations.

Defense Agencies' Stance Did Not Elicit Understanding From Presidents

During the August meeting of Council of Defense Ministers, all countries parties to the Collective Security Treaty recognized the advisability of creating multinational peacekeeping forces. It was proposed that coalition forces under a single command be formed and sent to Tajikistan because the units currently deployed there are unable to ensure stability in the region and require urgent reinforcement. However, entirely different documents were signed at the follow-up meeting of the heads of state.

The agreements signed do not regulate the composition of the peacekeeping forces, nor do they specify requirements for using them. All that was reached was an agreement in principle on creating them. According to the decision, the CPF should be formed by 1 October and should arrive in "the areas of deployment" by 15 October. Stating that the collective peacekeeping forces actually exist would be at least premature. At present there are inadequate legal grounds to send military contingents into Tajikistan because neither the decision on forming the CPF nor the agreement on their status mention this subject, and if these forces are to be used, military and technical aspects of still new decisions and agreements have to be worked out and approved by the Council of Ministers of the member

states. Besides, according to available information, neither Kazakhstan nor Kyrgyzstan is capable of sending additional contingents to Tajikistan.

The Abolition of the Main Command May Negatively Affect the Level of Military Cooperation Within the CIS

One of the main reasons for the emerging confusion and uncertainty in relations among military and political leaders of the states of the former USSR was the reorganization of the Main Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. At the latest meeting of the Council of Heads of State, the Main Command was finally abolished and replaced by a Staff for the Coordination of Military Cooperation, which, instead of being a body capable of ensuring efficient command of the joint armed forces, was designed as a kind of public club, where the defense chiefs will discuss emerging problems and make decisions, which, as a matter of fact, will not be subject to implementation until they are approved at the top level. In addition, the change in the Main Command's status entails a review of a whole range of international treaties and agreements involving the Main Command and substantial cuts in its staff, which would lead to an outflow of competent specialists and experts and may, according to observers, affect in an extremely negative way both the level of military cooperation among CIS countries and the quality of documents that will be adopted in the future.

Ukraine Not Signatory to Decision on Tajikistan Forces

LD0210163793 Kiev UNJAR in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev, 1 Oct—As it became known to UNJAR, out of the three agreements dealing with the joint actions in the Republic of Tajikistan, offered to Ukraine at the meeting of the heads of CIS states in Moscow, Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk signed only a statement in support of the statement by the Russian Federation on measures to normalize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and an agreement on setting up a fund to help the Republic of Tajikistan. A decision on setting up coalition defense forces in the Republic of Tajikistan was not signed.

Agriculture Chiefs Hold Session in Ukraine

LD0110210593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] A session of the CIS intergovernmental council for issues of the agro-industrial complex started today in Kharkov. Representatives of 10 Commonwealth countries are taking part in the session, including deputy prime ministers for agrarian issues, agriculture ministers, presidents of academy of sciences, and other specialists.

The session discussed issues of scientific and technological cooperation, and the supply of information to the agro-industrial complex of the Commonwealth countries. Documents on the results of the session are expected to be signed.

The Ukrainian delegation is led by Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Demyanov.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Oct

LD0210082993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0602
GMT 2 Oct 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

Moscow October 2 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian press continues to give extensive coverage to events which took place in the country after President Boris Yeltsin issued the decree on gradual constitutional reform in the Russian Federation.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper front-pages an article on a meeting between representatives from the Russian president and parliament at the St. Danilov monastery, the seat of the Russian church patriarchate.

Replying to the newspaper, a representative of the patriarchate said that "some agreements of principle have been reached on how to settle the problem of the 'White House' parliament building. However, they have not been spelled out in a written form."

According to the representative, the surrender of weapons by people inside "White House" turned to be the most difficult question for both sides.

Under the headline "Hot Line", the TRUD newspaper features an interview with head of the president's office Sergey Filatov. Replying to the newspaper, Filatov said that "a situation has developed when the country is threatened with the constitution which was repeatedly amended by legislators to adapt it to transient events, thereby turning themselves into an absolute sovereign."

In Filatov's opinion, "old-style legislators braced for grabbing power" in the country. Mindful of this, the president decided to pull out of the crisis in a civilised way: he offered the people the right to have the final say. Political parties and associations were given equal rights at elections.

Under the headline "Centre-Regions: Can We Save our Common Home from the Folly of a Collapse?," the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper carries an article pointing to the growing threat of Russia's disintegration.

In the newspaper's opinion, under the present circumstances "the centre is responsible for the greater part of the blame": the extremely lengthy conflict between the executive and legislative arms of government and very drastic forms of its settlement.

Indicating the growing role of regions, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA expresses apprehensions that "some representatives from regional administrative elites will try to exploit the present weakened position of the centre to resolve their own parochial egoistic problems."

The newspaper writes that "one thing is clear: the continued dramatic confrontation in the centre works only for

destruction. The situation should be ameliorated at the earliest possible time and only through peaceful means.

Under the headline "Nerves are on the Verge of Breaking", KRASNAYA ZVEZDA prints an article saying that the present situation at the parliament building is totally different from the lax atmosphere during the first days of confrontation.

Difficult conditions under which people exist for many days "tells on their psychic state." In the newspaper's opinion, the scenes of demonstrators' dispersal near the Barrikadnaya underground station show that "militia's nerves are also at a breaking point."

Writing that electricity, heating and sewage were cut off from the parliament building, TRUD stresses that "the presidential decree says nothing that the former legislators should be deprived, along with their mandates, of generally recognised rights of the individual as well as of their human dignity."

"Plans of White House 'defenders' are now being translated into life: authorities helped them to turn out of absurd and buffoonish people into protectors of the humiliated and miserable."

Commenting on the present political situation, the PRAVDA newspaper writes: "light appeared at the end of the tunnel: electricity was supplied to the parliament building. An agreement was signed on the building's gradual deblockading. But the situation is still disquieting. There is no place for illusions."

In the newspaper's opinion, "the movement to a 'zero version' (eds: simultaneous elections of president and parliament) from the brink of a civil war has started. But "the fist over Russia is still looming", since "behind-the-scenes politicians" are still ruling the destiny of Russia on behalf of the executive power.

PRAVDA quotes a statement by Kalmyk President Kirman Ilyumzhinov who is now at the White House parliament building. He calls "on the heads of Russian regions, representatives of diplomatic missions and all who hold dear democracy and integrity of Russia to help end the armed confrontation, to lift immediately the White House blockade and to grant constitutional rights and freedoms to all the people inside the White House."

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA newspaper runs a decision taken by a meeting of the Russian Federation's members which was held at the Constitutional Court conference hall in Moscow.

The document contains several demands: to lift immediately the White House blockade, to repeal the presidential decree of September 21 and to set the date for simultaneous early elections of president and parliament.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA prints a report from Moscow streets headlined "occupation by riot police." The article claims that some 20,000 riot police and Interior Ministry

troops were massed in Moscow. "Incidentally," the newspaper writes, "troops are turned with their backs to the White House and with nightsticks to Muscovites."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer Aleksandr Golts analyses relations between politicians and the army. "The situation when the army is out of politics, is an axiom for a society which firmly embraces democratic values. It is still a theorem for Russia."

Nevertheless, the author claims that "the military, often unjustifiably humiliated, slandered and betrayed by politicians, have developed immunity against any political gambling."

According to Golts, this is the reason for restraint and calm with which the military treat attempts "to draw the army into the present confrontation." In the author's opinion, "the army now is the only reliable guarantor of Russia's integrity."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA comments on the banning of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper. The newspaper calls "immoral" the present situation and regards as "cynical" a fact that "several hundred thousands of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA subscribers will have to pay for a newspaper up to the end of the year, which they do not want to read."

Shokhin: No Plans To Write Off Foreign Debt

LD0110162693 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1452
GMT 1 Oct 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—"Russia does not raise the question of writing off part of its foreign debt. Russia is a great nation and we are ready to completely fulfill the obligations," Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin told a news conference here today upon his return from Washington, DC.

In his words, Russia has practically completed negotiations with all members of the Paris Club. Before the end of this year the council will pay some 1.9 billion U.S. dollars to its creditors, and no more than 2.5 billions in 1994.

The international economic community believes the Russian leadership can implement the announced program to overcome crisis, he said. A mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will arrive in Moscow in October to acquaint itself with the implementation of the economic development program. Shokhin stressed political instability scares away Western investors.

Asked whether the presidential decree to raise by 1.8 times allowances for families with many children and low income will boost the inflation, Shokhin said this will be done through re-distribution of money balance at accounts of the pension fund. He stressed the government is unanimous in the opinion they "cannot sacrifice the economy to victory at the upcoming elections".

Shokhin called for allocations to Russian consumers and not producers.

Regional States**Spokesman Notes Concern over Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict**

LD0110163293 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1312 GMT 1 Oct 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Oct (*ITAR-TASS*)—"Russia is still deeply concerned over the development of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict," said Grigoriy Karasin, director of the information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, at a briefing here today. Alarming signals about facts of cruelty to the refugees and the peaceful population and instances of lynch law are arriving from the zone of hostilities, he went on. "We firmly state the need to refrain from violence toward the peaceful population. Reason should prevail over force," he said.

In the last few days, the Russian Foreign Ministry representative said, strange reports and pronouncements have appeared alleging that Moscow "had a hand" in Zviad

Gamsakhurdia's return to Georgia. "In our view, such allegations are not serious and should be treated with nothing but irony."

In connection with the anti-Russian rhetoric continuing in Georgia, Grigoriy Karasin stressed, "Russia is again calling on the Georgian side to show wisdom and restraint and to take all the necessary measures in order to resolutely stop illegal acts against Russian servicemen, members of their families, and all the citizens of Russia." Such acts can "seriously complicate" Russian-Georgian relations, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's representative warned.

Foreign Ministry Predicts Complications in Abkhazia

LD0110205493 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1856
GMT 1 Oct 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Vosboynikov, Yegor Porshnev, and Vitaliy Trubetskoy]

[Text] Anti-Russian rhetoric continues in Georgia. In this connection, the Russian Foreign Ministry urges Georgia to "evaluate the situation soberly, demonstrate wisdom and staying power, and take all the necessary measures to prevent illegal actions in relation to Russian servicemen, members of their families and Russian citizens in general. Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department Grigoriy Karasin stated during a briefing on Friday.

He also described as unserious and ridiculous the reports about Moscow's involvement in the return of ex-president Gamsakhurdia to Georgia.

Commenting on the Georgian leader's refusal to join the CIS and on the assertions that it is Russia that is interested in Georgia's membership in the CIS, Karasin said that whether or not to join the CIS is decided by the leaders of the state in question. "Russia is far from insisting on anyone's membership in the CIS," he said.

To quote Karasin, Russia is still concerned about the situation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. "The Abkhazian military formations are reported to have approached the river Inguri," he said. "Reports are also coming from the conflict zone about inhumane treatment of refugees and civilians, and about mob murders," he went on to say. "We state emphatically that no violent measures must be applied to civilians. Reason must overcome violence," he said.

Karasin also said that refugees from Abkhazia constitute a separate sharp problem. More than 80,000 people have got caught in areas of engagement between the Georgian and Abkhazian forces, particularly in the region of the Kodori ravine. Russia is ready to help these people, he said. "so we urge Abkhazia and Georgia to cooperate with Russia in this problem," he added.

Karasin announced that on Friday Moscow received an alarming signal from the Transcaucasian Control Department about the threat to the Inguri Hydroelectric Power Plant. "A high-ranking representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry has urgently got in touch with Vice-Chairman of the Abkhazian Cabinet Sergey Bagapsh. No damage must be inflicted on the Inguri plant," said Karasin.

Karasin announced that on Friday Moscow received an alarming signal from the Trans-Caucasian Control Department about the threat to the Inguri Hydro-Power Plant. "A high-ranking representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry urgently got in touch with Vice-Chairman of the Abkhazian Cabinet Sergey Bagapsh. There must be no damage inflicted on the Inguri hydro-power plant," said Karasin.

Georgian Caller Issues Death Threat to Russian Leaders

MK0210101093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Oct 93 p 1

[NEGA report in the "In Brief" column: "Smoke Without Fire?"]

[Text] An assassination attempt on representatives of the Russian political elite is planned for the immediate future. This was told to the NEGA news agency on the phone by a person claiming to be a former aide to Eduard Shevardnadze who now represents, in his words, a group of people believing in the future of Russia and Georgia as a single state. He said that the assassination attempt was planned with the objective of avenging Tbilisi's military defeat in Abkhazia, for which the organizers of the proposed terrorist act blame Russia and primarily Boris Yeltsin, Gennadiy Burbulis, and Pavel Grachev.

Government Ready To Send Peacekeepers to Georgia

LD0210200593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1916 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—The Russian Government expressed its concern over the recent developments in Georgia and said it is ready to send its peace-keepers to the country. It also denounced Abkhazian separatists and anti-Shevardnadze forces of ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

"Irresponsible actions of separatists, of supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia put the country on the brink of a civil war. The issue of the very existence of the Georgian state has been raised", the government said in a statement released on Saturday.

The violation by the Abkhazian leadership of the ceasefire agreement brokered by Russia resulted in a new bloodshed. "Russia denounces facts of genocide, rude violations of human rights reported from the zone of conflict". "We

support the creation of an international tribunal to investigate such crimes and punish those responsible for them", according to the document.

Russia stands for territorial integrity of Georgia and insists that conflicts be settled exclusively by peaceful means, according to the statement which stressed that allegations about Russian involvement into the developments in western Georgia are "absurd".

The government called on the warring sides to end the bloodshed and observe human rights. "If it is necessary to engage peace-keeping forces to guarantee agreements reached during negotiations, Russia will be ready for that", the statement stressed.

The Russian Government is also concerned over the instigation of anti-Russian moods in Georgia and over terrorist acts staged against Russian diplomats and the military.

"We hope that reason will triumph", the Russian Government said.

Shoygu, Adamishin Fly to Tbilisi To Discuss Refugees

LD0310141793 Moscow Radio Rossi Network in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] According to INTERFAX, Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations, and Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin are expected to arrive in Tbilisi today. The aim of their visit is to discuss issues connected with organizing aid to Georgian refugees in Svanetia. More than 100,000 of them have fled there. There are casualties caused by the cold weather and shortage of food. Svanetia is declared a national disaster area.

Delegation Head on 'Misunderstandings' at Latvian Talks

LD0110231593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 1 Oct 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Dmitry Vosboynikov, Yegor Porsheev, and Vitaliy Trubetskoy]

[Text] It looks like Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis has not been fully informed by his delegation about the Russo-Latvian talks on the Russian strategic facilities in Latvia, all of which led to the discussion of this problem during the recent meeting between the Latvian and U.S. presidents, head of the Russian delegation Sergey Zotov told Interfax on Friday.

He also expressed regret that the Latvian representatives had misinterpreted Russia's position on the radar station in Skrund. The Russian delegation's statement that this radar figured in the ABM Treaty and was a major factor of international stability and could not be eliminated so easily prompted wrong conclusions from the Latvian leaders. For some reason Riga came to the conclusion that

Russia was referring to the agreements with the U.S. on the strategic facilities in Latvia and to the U.S. support for Russia in this issue," said Zotov.

He also noted that following the meeting with the Latvian president, the U.S. president stated that Washington had no plans to support Russia in this question.

To quote Zotov, "in order to avoid further misunderstanding, Russia will immediately present explanations to the U.S."

Speaking about the results of the last round of Russo-Latvian talks in Jurmala, Zotov said that Latvia had demonstrated understanding of the problem of social guarantees for ex-servicemen and members of their families.

At the same time, Latvia's wish to have the Russian troops removed from its territory before the end of 1993 is unrealistic, he said. "On the eve of the winter, Russia cannot withdraw thousands of servicemen with families and make them live in tents. Given the current complicated situation in Russia, this is even less possible," said Zotov.

Emergencies Committee Sends Aid to Tajikistan

LD0110214693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 1 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—The Russian Committee for Emergencies has sent a planeload of about 20 tons of foodstuffs, mostly children's food, to inhabitants of Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan region which has suffered severe damage in the recent civil war and earthquakes, a committee spokesman told ITAR-TASS.

The plane landed in Osha, Kyrgyzstan, on Friday morning. The aid was then loaded on trucks which will deliver it to destination, the Gorno-Badakhshan region of Tajikistan.

Yeltsin Appoints New Head of Delegation in Tajikistan

LD0210120593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1119 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Oct—The Russian president has issued a decree according to which Mecheslav Senkevich is released from his responsibilities as the head of the Russian delegation at the negotiations with Tajikistan on the questions of the bilateral relations of mutual interests in political, military, economic, social, and humanitarian spheres.

Valeriy Sukhin is appointed the head of the Russian delegation at these negotiations by the decree of the president.

Ministry Says Nuclear Pacts With Ukraine 'Fully Valid'

LD0110170293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1638 GMT 1 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—A statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman was circulated here today to say the following:

"A Russian-Ukrainian summit on September 3 in Massandra, the Crimea, resulted in historic agreements on elimination of all nuclear weapons located on Ukrainian territory.

"A Russian-Ukrainian governmental agreement on utilization of nuclear warheads and major principles of utilization of nuclear warheads of strategic nuclear forces stationed in Ukraine related to the agreement were signed by the two prime ministers and published.

"The more so, the Russian and Ukrainian presidents agreed that the Ukrainian Government shall provide for withdrawal of all nuclear warheads of strategic nuclear forces stationed in Ukraine to the Russian Federation with the aim of their dismantling and destruction no later than within 24 months since the day of the Ukrainian parliament's ratification of the agreement.

"None has canceled or disavowed these agreements. This was stated by the Russian Foreign Ministry on September 21.

"At the same time, we think it necessary to again attract international attention to this fact since specific mass media bodies are spreading rumors to provoke doubts as regards the Russian-Ukrainian agreements on nuclear arms. Some of these rumors are spread on the initiative of specific Ukrainian officials.

"It seems to be done by Ukrainian forces that are dissatisfied with actions and decisions of the Ukrainian president and want to make vague the results of Massandra agreements.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry states that all Massandra agreements on nuclear arms remain fully valid. The current task is their soonest implementation. Russia is ready for it."

State Delegations Take Stock of Black Sea Fleet

MK0210134193 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 60, 2 Oct 93 (signed to press 1 Oct) p 2

[Unattributed report: "Russia and Ukraine Prepare to Inventory the Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] On 29 and 30 September a round of talks by state delegations of Russia and Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet took place in Moscow. The talks were held under a mandate from the heads of both states. On Ukraine's initiative it was decided to set up working groups to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the entire property

of the Black Sea Fleet and to elaborate the principles and procedures for mutual financial settlements. Conditions for Russia's leasing of particular Black Sea Fleet facilities and for creating a joint command are to be defined.

United States

Writer Welcomes Ministry's Criticism of U.S. Aid Terms

PM0110144393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Oct 93 p 3

[Observer Manki Ponomarev article: "When Conditions Are Stated to Russia..."]

[Text] In what is an unusually sharp tone for it of late the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry has made a statement on the draft bill on foreign aid expenditure in 1994 which the U.S. Senate adopted a few days ago, or to be more precise, on the part of this draft bill which sets out the conditions for allocating aid to Russia and other former Soviet republics.

The point is that, according to the Senate's decision, a total of \$2.5 billion is being allocated for this aid. But as regards Russia, the granting of aid is being made conditional on a number of preconditions. They include, for example, the "prompt" (from Washington's viewpoint, of course) withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic countries. Aid to Moscow could also be terminated if it gives economic support to Cuba or sells weapons to countries carrying out (again in the United States' opinion) a policy of state terrorism.

It is quite obvious that conditions of this sort are unacceptable to any self-respecting state, however much it needs economic assistance. Especially as, in allocating these resources, the U.S. Senate is giving aid not so much to Russia as to the United States itself, whose security largely depends on stability and the direction of the future development of events on the former USSR's territory. "Our fates will be linked for many generations to come," Senator Bill Bradley correctly observed at the draft foreign aid bill hearings.

Nevertheless the senators did not shrink from making blunt and categorical demands of Russia. As if they are better able to see when and how Russian troops should be withdrawn from the Baltic region. As if they are better able to see how Russia should build its relations with other states—with Cuba, for example.

Everyone, including U.S. senators, is entitled to their own opinion about events in our country. But not to interfere in its internal affairs and not to dictate any terms whatever to it. And we should not get too carried away with the promised \$2.5 billion—it makes no difference because we will not receive it in the form of real money—but instead we should retain the honor and dignity of a great people and great state which is an equal member of the world community. In this respect the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's recent statement can only be welcomed.

U.S. Inspectors Visit N. Caucasus Military District

PM0110155993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Oct 93 p 3

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate report under "From Our Newsdesk" rubric: "Inspection Carried Out"]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions of the 1992 Vienna document from the talks on confidence- and security-building measures, on 23 September the U.S. Government conveyed a request to the Russian Federation Government to conduct an inspection on the North Caucasus Military District's territory in the area of Tuapse, Kaganlyk, Divnoye, and Cherkessk.

The request was satisfied. On 27 September a U.S. inspection group of four U.S. Armed Services representatives arrived at the said area, where it carried out a 48-hour inspection.

KamAZ Joins Forces With U.S. Auto-Engine Producer

PM0110153793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0600 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Report over video from KamAZ Motor Vehicle Plant; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [unidentified correspondent over video of burned out KamAZ engine plant] Despite the fire which put part of the KamAZ plant facilities out of action, the enterprise is more alive than dead. Every cloud has a silver lining. Nikolay Bekh, KamAZ general director, said at a press conference. Reforms—and they were inevitable—were to have been implemented gradually. Now there is a new timeframe, a new scale, and a new volume of capital investments.

KamAZ faces serious problems. The prices of materials and finished vehicles in Russia have essentially caught up with world prices. Competitors whom KamAZ previously encountered only in Western markets have begun to penetrate into Russia. This means that KamAZ must change, and change fundamentally. This applies in particular to engines. Ours are not powerful enough, and in ecological terms they are way behind world standards. The U.S. company Cummins Engines has come to our rescue. It was announced today that an agreement has been signed between Cummins and KamAZ for the production of 50,000 engines in Russia per year. KamAZ did not clutch at the first straw. Eleven types of engines produced by various companies in the United States, Europe, and Japan were tested. Basically, such an engine could also have been developed at KamAZ, perhaps even a better one. But only one could have been produced. Setting up series production takes time. And the engines are needed right now. Hence the cooperation with Cummins.

The Americans, too, weighed up the pros and cons for a long time. But they liked KamAZ so much that they weren't even put off by the political instability in Russia.

[video shows KamAZ plant facilities and trucks, wall charts of engines, KamAZ-Cummins press conference]

Balkan Region

Prospects for Yugoslav Peace, U.S. Role Analyzed

PM3009104393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Sergey Svistunov commentary: "Yugoslavia: Break-through to Peace?"]

[Text] The confrontation in Moscow and the historic handshake between Palestinian leader Y. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Y. Rabin have pushed Yugoslav news into the background in both the Russian and the foreign media. Yet for perhaps the first time in the many months of bloody conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina there is a faint hope of a peaceful settlement.

This good news is all the more remarkable, because, following the collapse of the exhausting round of talks in Geneva from 27 July through 1 September, it had seemed that a new spiral of fratricidal slaughter could not be avoided. "Unfortunately, the war will continue," a grief-stricken Croatian President F. Tudjman informed journalists at the final press conference.

No, the guns have not fallen silent yet, unfortunately. Fierce fighting continues around Sarajevo, in central Bosnia, and for the old town of Mostar in southern Herzegovina. Things are also uneasy in the Croatian Krajina.

Fortunately, the dialogue has not been broken off. Although dreadfully difficult, it has, however, borne fruit. During a meeting between the warring parties on board the British aircraft carrier *Invincible* there was finally a breakthrough—the key question of granting the Muslims access to the Adriatic was resolved. The talks, which have now been transferred to Sarajevo, will mainly consist of a "tug-of-war" between Muslim leader A. Izetbegovic and his Serbian and Croatian opposite numbers with a view to winning as many major territorial concessions from the latter as possible. But the fundamental question of Izetbegovic's readiness to sign a final document dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina into three ministates has apparently been resolved.

That is why the problem of mutual domestic and international guarantees for a peace that is much-longed-for, close at hand, but very fragile is arising so acutely now. The West European states are stepping up the pressure on Washington, which, in their opinion, should long ago have made a weightier contribution in the Balkans than just issuing hysterical threats to bomb Serb positions or sending a symbolic military contingent to Macedonia. According to expert assessments it will take at least 50,000 "blue helmets" to effectively separate the warring factions.

The White House, as ever, has tried to invite the obliging "dear Andrey" [Foreign Minister Kozyrev] and other Kremlin leaders to pull the chesnuts out of the fire. They

have been trying to talk Moscow into sending a 12,000-strong expeditionary corps to Yugoslavia or, at worst, additional subunits of the 27th Motorized Rifle Division, which is already involved in UN operations in the Balkans. But if Russia's political leadership shows a willingness to toe the Washington line for the umpteenth time in the hope of gaining new injections of dollars or words of praise about themselves, the Russian generals who experienced Afghanistan are not so enthusiastic. British Defense Secretary M. Rifkind, sent to Moscow to "sound out" his opposite number P. Grachev, brought back the disappointing news that he had "been given to understand that Russia does not envisage increasing its troop numbers in the former Yugoslavia." London's THE GUARDIAN reported, citing the minister.

Of course, Boris Yeltsin could "correct" Grachev—as has happened several times in the past. But now that he is in an atmosphere of war with his own parliament, it would be "awkward" talking to Yeltsin about Yugoslavia. Although—who knows?—maybe we will have to pay yet again with the "cannon fodder" of Russian soldiers for the political support which the West is now giving him personally.

In this situation U.S. Defense Secretary L. Aspin has stated that the Pentagon is prepared to send 25,000 U.S. servicemen to Bosnia-Herzegovina. But the White House is placing so many categorical conditions that are purposely difficult to fulfill on the U.S. Army's possible participation in international peacekeeping efforts that the U.S. "good-will gesture" is turning into something ephemeral and symbolic.

Serbs, Croats, and Muslims have been instructed to "disengage their troops and strictly fulfill the cease-fire agreement." They are to officially invite U.S. and other foreign subunits to monitor the agreement. It is proposed that the allies in the "Yugoslav entente" will, first, give the "firmest guarantees of their readiness to send another 25,000 soldiers to the crisis region"; second, stipulate the main phases of and timetable for the operation; and, third, make some specific financial commitments as regards paying for this expensive undertaking—which experts estimate will cost around \$4 billion a year. It is common knowledge, however, that the readiness of London, Paris, or Bonn to shoulder that kind of burden is near zero.

Well, the Americans can partly be understood. On the one hand, the role of "world policeman" forces them to flex their muscles. While the experience of the Korean and Vietnam wars and the recent fiasco of the inglorious Somalia expedition—where, instead of a victorious blitzkrieg they have again gotten bogged down in an unending fight against partisans—prompts caution.

Probably no great hopes should be pinned on NATO's strategists, who are itching to take over the reins of the "peacekeeping war machine" in Yugoslavia from UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, nor on the transparent military contingents from the other side of the Atlantic. There is more hope that the warring factions themselves, exhausted by fratricide and privation, will show good sense

and refrain from hostilities. Otherwise the current hard-won progress in the peace talks will be just another intermission allowing people merely to bandage their wounded and reload the empty magazines of their death-spitting assault rifles.

Moscow 'Upset' by Bosnian Muslims' Rejection of Peace Plan

LD0110174793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611
GMT 30 Sep 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The Bosnian Moslem Parliament's decision has upset Moscow since it virtually rejects a peace settlement plan for that former Yugoslav republic.

A senior Russian Foreign Ministry official noted in an interview with INTERFAX on Thursday that although "formally" the Moslems approved the plan, their reservations make meaningless all efforts bent by the world community, including Russia. "The Bosnian Moslems demanded back under their control 'all territories captured by force,' failing even to specify which territories precisely are meant," he said.

In his opinion, the Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic will now hardly forgo his decision. "There is an entirely new situation for a Bosnian settlement, a situation that requires a proper response from the world community."

Asked what kind of response might follow, the diplomat replied that the Russian Foreign Ministry is drafting its proposals now. "It will take some time to formulate them," he added.

Japan

Yeltsin Faces 'Difficult Dialogue' in Tokyo

PM0110134793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in
Russian 1 Oct 93 p 2

[Pavel Shinkarenko commentary: "Will Boris Yeltsin Say 'Yes' in Tokyo? The Problem of the 'Northern Territories' Is the Key to Russia's Peace Treaty with Japan"]

[Text] Tokyo is calm, and Moscow is counting the options for possible Russian-Japanese agreements. This is the first reaction to the report that Boris Yeltsin will arrive in the Land of the Rising Sun 12 October.

But however much counting is done, before the matter goes as far as a discussion of the texts of economic agreements, the Russian president will have to express his opinion on the most ticklish question—the fate of the South Kurils. It cannot be hoped that it will be possible to "suppress" the problem by referring to the complex internal political situation in Russia. The trial balloon launched by the INTERFAX agency in this regard burst almost before it reached Tokyo: M. Takamura, general secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers, denied its report that

Japan had supposedly agreed not to raise with the guest from Moscow the question of the return to it of two islands in the South Kuril chain. On the contrary, he unambiguously advocated "adopting decisions on this question on the basis of the 1956 Soviet-Japanese Declaration" during the summit. Later the same idea was also confirmed by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who stated his desire to use Boris Yeltsin's arrival to resolve the territorial question and fully normalize relations with Russia. At the same time he emphasized that Tokyo will continue to support the efforts of President Boris Yeltsin's administration in implementing reforms and stabilizing the situation in the country.

It is understandable that a difficult dialogue faces the president in Tokyo: Polls show that Russian public opinion is not yet ready for a radical solution to border problems. Consequently, it will not be possible to answer the Japanese partners' questions in the affirmative. Although the very fact of the visit, after two deferments, is a major and extremely important event. It is possible to judge from the fact that the summit will take place under conditions of a political crisis in Russia not only Boris Yeltsin's confidence in the Russians' support for his actions but also his sincere desire to normalize relations with the eastern neighbor. "Back in June, at the Tokyo meeting of the G-7 leaders, Boris Yeltsin stated his intention to visit Japan this fall," Georgiy Kunadze, Russian Federation deputy minister of foreign affairs, recalled, commenting on the news of the upcoming visit. "The Russian president keeps his word."

There is no doubt that Japan is an important partner for Russia, just as Russia is for Japan. Therefore it is extremely important that a spirit of good-neighborliness, partnership, and mutual advantage should reign when resolving the most difficult tasks at the negotiating table. To all appearances, a tendency to develop relations with the northern neighbor in those spheres where this is possible without prior conditions has emerged in the Japanese islands. As expected, commercial structures and private firms have been the most fair here. An example of this is provided by Japanese corporations' participation in realizing major economic projects, particularly with regard to opening up oil and gas deposits on the Sakhalin shelf, conserving the environment in the border region, modernizing Russian enterprises, converting the defense industry, and developing the transport network in the Far East. On the whole, in the assessment of experts, more than 15 functional agreements in various spheres of Russian-Japanese relations could be signed in Tokyo.

The search for accord through cooperation is a reliable means of "untying" the most complex and tight "knots."

'Good Reason' To Believe Trip Still On

LD0410024893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0127
GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] "There are good reasons to believe that Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan will go ahead as scheduled, on October 11 to 13," a close aide of the president told

Interfax. "True, it will largely depend on the political situation in the country," he added.

On the other hand, he said that the political situation was under full president's control. It is complicated in humanitarian terms.

Chernomyrdin Opposes Transfer of Kurils to Japan

LD0310171993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin hopes for normalization of relations between Moscow and Tokyo.

However, in an extensive interview with Interfax he restated his opposition to the handover of so-called Northern Territories to Japan.

This is my own belief as citizen, Chernomyrdin stressed.

He does not believe Tokyo will raise the territorial issue during President Yeltsin's coming visit to Japan. "Because this is not 'the main thing in bilateral relations too,'" he said.

We have too many other issues on the agenda, said the Prime Minister, and we must find and use other options for improving our relations.

Turkey

Turkish Opposition to CFE Request Examined

PM2909113993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Maksim Yusin report: "Unexpected Friction Between Ankara and Moscow"]

[Text] The Turkish leadership has come out resolutely against Moscow's proposal to review certain provisions of the Treaty on the Limitation of Conventional Armed Forces, which would allow Russia not to reduce the amount of its own combat equipment in the North Caucasus.

"Russia cannot unilaterally 'amend' the treaty, and Turkey does not agree to any changes in it," Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin stated. At the same time, the Turkish foreign policy department called on NATO countries and other treaty participants to "attentively monitor the possible negative consequences of the Russian initiative."

This reaction from Ankara was greeted with surprise at the Russian Foreign Ministry. "Last week President Yeltsin sent a message to his Turkish counterpart, Suleyman Demirel, explaining Moscow's position. In his letter of reply Demirel noted that he understands Yeltsin's arguments that border defense is an internal matter for Russia and that Ankara does not see Moscow as a threat to its security," Bakhtiyar Khakimov, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Western Asia Administration, said.

According to information from Smolensk Square sources, similar messages from Yeltsin have been received by the leaders of the main Western states apart from Demirel. Russia's aim is to achieve a revision of the quotas set by the treaty, which was signed when the USSR still existed and does not, Moscow believes, reflect current political realities.

The Kremlin is particularly concerned about the paragraph stipulating that by 1995 the Leningrad and North Caucasus Military Districts (which account for more than half of the territory of the European part of Russia) will retain just 700 tanks, 580 armored combat vehicles, and 1,200 artillery systems. Given the tension in Russia's North Caucasus republics and the armed conflicts in the neighboring Transcaucasian states, Moscow can hardly agree to these quotas.

"We are talking about Russia's security. We do not threaten any of our neighbors. When the Turks have problems in Kurdistan, we do not even dream of counting how many tanks they have sent to the hot spots," an interlocutor at Smolensk Square noted. As he put it, Russia is counting on support from the United States and West Europe on this issue. "It is not ruled out that the Turkish Foreign Ministry's unexpectedly sharp reaction is linked to some kind of misunderstanding," he added.

Diplomat Denies Turkish President Invited Dudaev

PM3009101593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Konstantin Eggert: "Who Invited Dzhokhar Dudaev to Turkey?"]

[Text] Chechnya President Dzhokhar Dudaev has come up with a new series of warnings to Russia. "We shall respond appropriately to any attempts at violent actions," he has stated.

In addition Dudaev accused Moscow of being reluctant to promote a peace settlement in the Caucasus. The Chechen leader's statements contain nothing new and the only point of interest is where they were made. It happened Tuesday at a press conference in Istanbul. AFP asserts that Dudaev is there at the invitation of Turkish head of state Suleyman Demirel.

Under conditions when relations between Moscow and Ankara are warming after a certain decline, the report of the personal invitation sent to Dudaev by the Turkish president has caused distrust. In this connection Khalil Akhundzhe [name as transliterated], minister adviser to the Turkish Embassy in Russia, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent: "Demirel simply could not have invited General Dudaev. It is absolutely impossible."

In the diplomat's opinion the Chechnya president is most likely in Turkey on a private visit, especially as an entry visa can be acquired for just \$10 on arrival in the country.

"If Dudayev received an official invitation it would unfaithfully have come through our embassy," Kh. Akyndzhe stated.

'Bewilderment' at Chechen Leader's Reception in Turkey

LD0110145293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1259 GMT 1 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow, 1 October—The meeting between Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, which has declared its withdrawal from the Russian Federation cannot but evoke bewilderment, taking account of the Turkish Government's repeated assurances to Russia that there will be no dealings with Dudayev. This was stated by Grigoriy Karasin, Director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department at a briefing held here today.

He recalled that Ankara had repeatedly promised to deal with the constituent parts of the Russian Federation solely via Moscow and not to take any steps that could evoke the concern of the Russian side.

In this connection, the Turkish ambassador to Moscow was today invited to the Russian Foreign Ministry, where he gave assurances that no such meetings would take place in the future.

The incident will not darken the process of development of Russian-Turkish relations, which were given a new impetus as a result of the very successful recent visit to Russia by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, stressed G. Karasin.

Asia

Moscow Affirms Readiness To Assist Cambodia

BK3009061193 Moscow Radio Moscow in Cambodian 1200 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Commentary by Vladimir Korolov: "Moscow Is Ready To Cooperate With New Cambodia"]

[Text] The 30-year civil war in Cambodia has ended. The country has peacefully entered a phase of liberal democracy. A new constitution was recently promulgated. Cambodia has become a kingdom. His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk has become king. Parliament has also been granted great power. By mid-November all UN forces carrying out peacekeeping mission in Cambodia will be withdrawn.

Many countries involved with the situation in Cambodia took part in the normalization of the situation in the country. However, the role of France, Indonesia, China, Vietnam, and Russia in solving this complicated issue should be highlighted.

Now a new and complex task is facing the Cambodian people, that of rebuilding the country and developing the national economy. In this task, the Cambodian people will receive assistance and support from the international community. Russia and Cambodia maintained friendly relations during the long period Prince Norodom Sihanouk was leader of the country. With our country's assistance, Cambodia built a number of enterprises, factories, and cultural establishments.

As head of state, Prince Norodom Sihanouk used to visit Moscow. However, what kind of relations will Russia build with Cambodia? The representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry affirmed that Russia supports the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which has been democratically elected, and is ready to continue the mutually beneficial cooperation to rebuild Cambodian society.

Moscow Apologizes Over Incident at Chinese Border

LD0110213293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 1 Oct 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitry Vosboinikov, Yegor Porshnev, and Vitaliy Trubetskoy]

[Text] Karasin announced that the Russian Foreign Ministry had presented its official apologies and expressed its "deep regret" in connection with the recent incident on the Russian-Chinese border which caused loss of life.

He said that on September 23, a Russian boat crossed China's state border in the Birobidzhan Region. The "crew" consisting of two servicemen and one local resident landed on the Chinese shore to steal fishing nets.

Caught red-handed by Chinese fishermen, the trespassers killed one Chinese citizen and wounded another one. "The command of the Russian Security Ministry's border troops has sent a group to the place of the incident to investigate it. Those guilty of the tragedy will be punished," said Karasin.

Kozyrev Meets Indian Counterpart in New York

LD0110194093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2129 GMT 30 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations September 30 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met his Indian counterpart Dinesh Singh in New York on Thursday. The two ministers discussed different aspects of Russian-Indian cooperation in light of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India.

Dinesh Singh told journalists no problems exist in the Russian-Indian relations which develop in a good way.

The ministers expressed concern over the situation in Afghanistan. They emphasized their countries' readiness to pull their efforts to strengthen stability in Western and Southern Asia.

The Indian minister said India supports the initiatives to rise the effectiveness of the peace-making movement Kozyrev announced at the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

NATO

Yeltsin Reportedly Sends Message to Clinton on NATO

LD0110160893 Warsaw PAP in English 1359 GMT
1 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 1—Press spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigory Karasin confirmed on Friday that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has presented Russia's standpoint concerning the possible admission of Poland and other central and eastern European countries to NATO in a secret communique which has been lately sent to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Yeltsin Warns West Against Expanding NATO

PM0110171093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
2 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Vladimir Lapskiy: "Russian President Urges West Not To Expand NATO by Incorporating East Europe"]

[Text] According to a report from leading foreign news agencies, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent Western leaders a letter in which he "warns against expanding NATO by accepting the former socialist countries of East Europe into that organization and instead proposes that NATO and Moscow provide joint security guarantees for this region."

A Russo-Polish joint declaration adopted during the Russian president's recent visit to Poland, however, enshrined the serious and realistic nature of Poland's intention to join the North Atlantic alliance. The declaration stressed on Yeltsin's behalf that sovereign Poland's decision would not be contrary to the process of general European integration or the interests of Russia. How does the present letter tie in with the Russian president's words in Warsaw recently?

Has Russia changed its position? This is just a question of Boris Yeltsin's routine correspondence with Western leaders, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman told IZVESTIYA. It is a closed letter but, as we can see, some information has filtered through into the press. Russia has no right to impose its position on sovereign states on how they should resolve their own security problems. Moscow has no objections in principle to the former Warsaw Pact allies' joining NATO, but the mechanical expansion of the North Atlantic bloc by allowing East European countries into the organization is hardly the only correct path to security on our continent. NATO itself has still to adapt to the changed conditions in Europe. But in Moscow's opinion, the question of new members for NATO cannot be a question for today.

Poland, Hungary, and the Czech and Slovak Republics could become bloc members in the foreseeable future, FRG Defense Minister Volker Ruehe stated quite recently.

If you consider, however, the prospect of the East European countries including the Baltic states' (and possibly Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova) joining NATO, will such a situation be favorable to Russia? In that event, Russia will effectively be placed outside Europe's borders. A confrontation of a new type will inevitably arise. If you consider, however, not only the countries of East Europe joining NATO but also Russia and its CIS allies, also (such an idea is also being suggested), you would see a monster appearing in the American-European-Asian area that the rest of the world would fear.

Yeltsin Sends Message to German Government on NATO

LD0110185793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1813
GMT 1 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[Text] Bonn October 1 TASS—A message of Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the Russian stand on prospects for NATO's eastward expansion and possible Polish admission to the organization has been received by the German Government, deputy official spokesman of the German Government Norbert Schaefer told a news conference here today.

The message is being studied by the German Foreign and Defence Ministries.

Prospects for NATO expansion will be considered by a NATO council session in January, 1994, at the level of NATO state and government heads.

The deputy spokesman recalled a recent speech of German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel at the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly when he called for gradual rapprochement of Central and East European states with NATO.

At the same time, the minister stressed it is impossible to ensure solid world order without Russian participation in this process.

Official: Russia Not Against E. European States in NATO

LD0210181093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1725
GMT 2 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—Russia is not against that its former Warsaw Pact allies from Eastern Europe join NATO, but believes this is not the most pressing problem of the continent, according to a high ranking diplomat.

"Russia has no disagreements in principle against East European countries joining NATO", the Russian Foreign Ministry official who asked not to be named told TASS on Saturday.

"We do not believe to have the right and are not going to determine in any way their decision on ensuring their security, on whether to join or not to join the North Atlantic organisation", he added.

The diplomat was responding to reports that President Boris Yeltsin had sent a message to several leaders of NATO member-states calling them to refrain from "a hasty expansion of the membership of the union by states of Eastern Europe".

The diplomat confirmed that the letter had been sent, but added that it was of a "working, closed character".

He recalled that Yeltsin had voiced his position on the issue during the visit to Poland in August when he stated that the Polish intention to join NATO does not contradict general processes of European integration.

Moscow believes that a simple increase in the NATO composition which now unites 16 states of the continent cannot serve as the only guarantee of European security, according to the official.

"Joining of NATO by East European states, Baltic countries, and possibly, Ukraine and several other states will create a new situation in the region and will somewhat isolate Russia thus triggering a certain new contraposition", the diplomat said.

In this connection the issue of increasing NATO membership is not the most burning problem of the continent in the current changing situation, he added.

Europe

Germans Continue To Emigrate Despite Yeltsin Reforms

PM3009124493 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
29 Sep 93 p 4

[Yuriy Nikiforenko report: "Aiming for the Rhine..."]

[Text] Orenburg city—In recent years more than 25,000 Germans resident in Orenburg Oblast have emigrated to take up permanent residence in Germany. Whole families and even whole settlements have gone. Even the so-called democratic reforms of Boris Yeltsin and his team are not stopping them. These same reforms which have made life even more difficult, especially in the countryside. In the first six months of 1993 alone 2,145 people have emigrated. Mainly to Germany.

Grachev, Hungary's Fur Discuss NATO Admission

LD0110152293 Budapest MTI in English 0750 GMT
1 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, October 1 (MTI)—It would be unfortunate if the former Warsaw Pact states joined NATO in the near future because this step would relegate Russia to a much more isolated situation. Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told his Hungarian counterpart Lajos Fur in Moscow on Thursday.

Asked by MTI, the Hungarian minister quoted Grachev as saying that in the long term, if NATO is expanded and Russia also joins it, his country would not oppose the admission of the east Central European states.

On Thursday, Fur visited Krasnodar to meet Hungarian officers being re-trained to pilot the 28 MiG-29s Russia would deliver to Hungary as repayment of a part of its debts. The 19 pilots and 76 members of the land-based supporting staff will complete the course in the middle of October. The commander of the school praised their performance.

The MiG-29 fighters, worth USD 30 million each, are scheduled to arrive in Hungary in October. Fur stressed the importance of the new aircraft, saying that Hungary got hardly any new military technology over the past few decades. He denied that the purchase was part of an arms buildup. "If the new MiG-29s are introduced, Hungary will still have fewer aircraft than permitted by the related international treaties," Fur told MTI.

UK Joint Venture Installs Nakhodka Communications System

OW3009230993 Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok
Network in Russian 0310 GMT 30 Sep 93

[From the "Lunch Hour Break" program]

[Text] A center for international telephone communications began operating in the Nakhodka free economic zone. It was built by the joint Russian-British Telecom enterprise, founded by the British Cable and Wireless firm and the Far East Marine Steamship Company. In employing a system of satellites, the joint enterprise offers its clients the ability to contact any telephone subscriber anywhere on earth in a matter of seconds. Telecom has installed international telephones in hotels and the many offices of Nakhodka and Vladivostok to improve its service, and it successfully competes with Japanese firms which offer similar communications services to Far East residents.

Political Issues

Court Rules for Rutskey in Suit Against Journalist

LD0210053193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2041
GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] On Thursday, Moscow's Sverdlovsk regional court ruled in favor of Aleksandr Rutskey's suit against the All-Russian state TV and radio company and journalist Andrey Karaulov. The suit was for defense of honor and dignity and to compensate moral damage. Karaulov is to pay 1 Mn [million] rubles to Rutskey.

While conversing with the chief editor of the newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets in the program "Moment of Truth" broadcast on August 9, journalist Karaulov declared that during the hostilities of the Soviet army in Afghanistan Rutskey "surrendered to mujahideens with his hands up." Rutskey's aircraft was shot down and he was taken prisoner in August, 1988 being a deputy commander of the aviation army.

Addressing the court, Rutskey qualified Karaulov's statement as "a means to implement aims of political discreditation." He urged the TV company and Karaulov to present their apologies and to exact 200 Mn rubles from them.

The All-Russian TV and radio company refused to take responsibility for the journalist's private program.

For his part, Karaulov sent a letter to the court asking to satisfy the suit. "It's too much honor for Rutskey if I come out as a defendant under such a situation," says the letter.

Yeltsin Names New Defense Industries Chairman

LD0210111893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 2 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree appointing Viktor Glukhikh as chairman of the Russian Federation state committee for defense industries.

Gaydar Visits Defense Complex Enterprises

LD0210060393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0125 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko, Anatoliy Vostokov]

[Text] Khabarovsk, 2 October—Today Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar flew from Khabarovsk to Komsomolsk-on-Amur. He plans to visit two major defense complex enterprises—the "Amur ship yard" and an aircraft building association.

At a press conference held yesterday evening, Yegor Gaydar replied to a question about the measures being taken to aid defense industry enterprises, which occupy a leading place in the economy of Khabarovsk Kray, in the following manner: "The most important thing today is that the state should fulfill its obligations regarding payment of

military products that have been ordered and already produced." The first deputy prime minister stressed that the program of conversion for the large enterprises in Komsomolsk-on-Amur this year have been financed according to a plan. "In my view," Yegor Gaydar noted, "at least the 'Leninskiy Komsomol' shipyard has good conversion prospects. First and foremost it is planned to build vessels of the river-sea type."

Cabinet Leaders' Activities Reported

PM0110103993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Executive Power: Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] Meetings, Sessions, Official Trips

Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, participated in a session of the Security Council which discussed the internal political situation in the country. In the afternoon there was a session of the Commission on Operational Questions.

In the morning First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar met with Japanese Ambassador Matsunado. A wide range of questions of Russian-Japanese economic ties was discussed. Then the first vice premier participated in the Security Council session. In the afternoon Yegor Gaydar received U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. The development of Russian-U.S. ties was discussed at the meeting. In the evening the first vice premier participated in the session of the Commission on Operational Questions.

Like his colleagues, First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets participated in the Security Council session. The afternoon was devoted to tackling current issues.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko participated in a "roundtable" session with Russian and foreign journalists. He familiarized representatives of the press with the current situation and answered numerous questions from journalists concerning both the political and the economic situation in the country.

Vice Premiers Boris Fedorov and Aleksandr Shokhin are still in Washington, where the fall session of the IMF Board of Governors is taking place.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha participated in the work of the Second Congress of the Agrarian Union of Russia, whose attention was focused on the situation in the country's agrarian sector, the completion of harvesting, and preparations for winter.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays is in Sweden.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov received Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and representatives of that country's parliament. Then the vice premier had a meeting with leaders of the "Norilskiy Nikel" Concern. In the second half of the day Yuriy Yarov held a conference, at which the results of fulfilling the Russian president's assignment relating to improving the structure of ministries and departments in the social sphere were analyzed.

In the evening Yuriy Yarov, like his colleagues, participated in the session of the Commission on Operational Questions. [passage omitted]

Corruption

On 27 September employees of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Main Administration for Economic Crimes together with their Moscow colleagues caught red-handed I.A. Firsova, chief of a department of the State Prices Inspectorate of the Moscow Government's Pricing Policy Administration. She took a bribe of 500,000 rubles [R] from a representative of a commercial structure for reducing sanctions in the form of fines relating to an exposed violation of the trading regulations. Moscow's Kuybyshevskiy Interrayon Prosecutor's Office has instituted criminal proceedings. Various goods were discovered in Firsova's apartment as the result of a search and were confiscated: 24 hats made from natural furs, over 70 pairs of shoes and 50 women's jackets, over 300 meters of drapery fabric, television and radio equipment, gold watches and other articles of gold, diamonds, and currency—according to preliminary estimates, with a total value of more than R1 billion.

The criminal case is proceeding at Moscow's Kuybyshevskiy Interrayon Prosecutor's Office. At present Firsova is deemed to be detained. The question of sanction for her arrest is to be decided today.

Further on Cabinet Activities

PM0410113393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 1 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Monitoring"]

[Text]

Meetings, Conferences, Trips

Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, was engaged in tackling current issues and then flew to Samara, where a conference of members of the "Great Volga" association is being held.

First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar held a conference on regulating foreign economic activity. In the afternoon the first vice premier flew on an official trip to Khabarovsk, where he will participate in a regional conference with leaders of Far Eastern krais and oblasts.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets participated in the Interregional Conference. In the evening Oleg Soskovets participated in a session of the Commission on Operational Questions.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhrai flew to Novosibirsk, where the All-Siberia Conference of People's Deputies of Republics, Krais, and Oblasts is being held. A session of the council of the "Siberian Accord" association, in whose work Sergey Shakhrai intends to participate, is scheduled there for today. This conference is being held at the suggestion of the Russian Government to discuss the current moment.

Vice Premiers Boris Fedorov and Aleksandr Shokhin were in Washington at a session of the IMF Board of Governors.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha left on an official trip to Kharkov.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays completed a trip to Sweden. In Stockholm the Russian vice premier and Ulf Dinkelspiel, Swedish minister of European affairs, signed an agreement on cooperation in customs affairs.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov participated in the conference "The Involvement of Western Capital in Developing the Pharmaceutical Industry in Russia. Investments in the Sector, and Business Cooperation."

Documents

A directive by Boris Yeltsin has formed a working group on legal backup for fulfillment of the Russian Federation president's edict "On Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation." It includes S. Shakhrai (group leader), Yu. Baturin, Yu. Kalmykov, A. Kotenkov, M. Mityukov, S. Khokhlov, and I. Tsyganenko.

By his directive Boris Yeltsin has granted the leader of the Russian Federation President's Administration the right to incorporate former Russian Federation people's deputies in coordinating and consultative organs operating under the Russian Federation president.

Military Issues

Yeltsin Appoints Zhurbenko First Deputy Chief of Staff

LD0110210493 Moscow Radio Rossi Network in Russian 0415 GHMT 1 Oct 93

[From the "Radio Slavyanka" program for Russian troops in Tajikistan]

[Text] Lieutenant-General Vladimir Zhurbenko has been appointed first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces by a decree of the Russian Federation president. Prior to this he occupied the post of deputy chief of the Russian General Staff.

Grachev Sends 5,000 More Soldiers To Help Harvest

LD0210111393 Moscow Radio Rossi Network in Russian 0415 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, has given the order to remove reinforced guard from all military installations in Moscow oblast and to send an additional 5,000 soldiers to help servicemen already engaged in harvesting.

Economic Issues**Rain, Lack of Spare Parts Threaten Grain Harvest**

MK0210140593 Moscow *SEGODNYA* in Russian No. 60, 2 Oct 93 (signed to press 1 Oct) p 3

[Natalya Abakumova report under the "Grain" rubric: "Record Harvest 'May End up Under the Snow,' Government Commission Warns"]

[Text] A record grain harvest of 115-120 million tonnes expected this year may not be brought in. At least Aleksandr Yefremov, Russian Federation deputy agriculture minister, warned the government commission supervising the harvesting that one should not expect this year more grain than was harvested last year (a gross yield of 106.8 million tonnes). According to the deputy minister, as of 27 September, grain remained unharvested on 13.1 million hectares (24 percent of the crop). A little more than 80 million tonnes has been harvested.

The completion of harvesting and the sowing of winter crops, Yefremov thinks, is being prevented by protracted rains in the Urals and Siberia and by snow in Kostroma, Tver, Yaroslavl, Moscow, and other oblasts of central and northeastern Russia. The main problem, however, is the financial plight of the rural areas. Payments have not been made for grain and other agricultural products sold to the state to the tune of 1.3 trillion rubles. The idling of equipment has become usual in the absence of spare parts for repairs, the irregular supplies of fuel and lubricants to the agro-industrial complex, and the absence of spare parts for the repair of motor vehicles.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha, who oversees agricultural questions, stated that this may quite probably lead to "serious losses of grain" and to a situation where part of the unharvested areas will "end up under the snow."

Minister Warns Against Attempts to Block Oil Supplies

LD0110225693 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English 1845 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] If the threat to block oil and gas deliveries from Siberia to the Center is implemented it will be viewed "as a criminal action against Russia's citizens and provinces as it would affect the whole republic." Those who do this "can be called criminals and will be treated in accordance with the law." These were the remarks of the RF Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik, voiced at the conference of representatives of Siberia's provinces and territories, part of the association "Siberian Agreement," recently held in Novosibirsk. Such threats of fuel stoppages were made public in order to render pressure on Moscow authorities and to remove the White House cordon.

Speaking at a press conference on Friday in Moscow, Shafranik underlined that he does not believe that fuel and energy deliveries will be stopped.

Speaking about the current situation in the country's fuel and energy complex, the minister expressed the hope that government departments would conclude development of a regulating mechanism for trade in oil enterprises by November-December, this would result in "a mighty flow" of their shares into the market. Shafranik reminded that thanks to share trading in this industry about 30 Mn vouchers could be invested into the oil industry.

The minister also reported that a package of presidential and governmental documents on energy saving are to be signed in the near future, they are to radically change the correlation in prices between fuel, energy and industrial production. This is meant to speed up structural changes in the country's economy so as to increase its efficiency.

While commenting on prospects of cooperation with foreign countries, the minister pointed out that there had been "radical changes" in the position of western oil companies towards Russia. If earlier they feared to invest and expressed readiness only to sell oil and gas extracting equipment in exchange for oil, now they see the necessity to invest in concrete projects. Speaking on the reasons for these changes, the minister said that Russia has started production of its own equipment and there will be no need for foreign ones.

Azerbaijan

Geydar Aliyev Wins Presidential Election

Elchibey Supports Kamberov

NC0210154093 Baku TURAN in English 1243 GMT
2 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October 2 (TURAN)—Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey has been removed from power in the result of military uprising June 4. Speaking with TURAN's correspondent about forthcoming presidential elections he told that the only nominee for the office of the leader of the state was former Parliament Speaker Isa Kamberov.

"I think he is strong political figure and very democratic person. And he proved that being the leader of the Parliament," stressed Elchibey.

Elchibey again confirmed his departure from the capital was the only right choice and he had averted that way the attempts of reaction forces to unleash civil war in the country.

"If I have not left Baku, country would have have Tbilisi variant. And after that victory or defeat would have been of no importance."

Elchibey pointed for him the office of the president was just the means of achieving of absolute independence of Azerbaijan.

Aliyev Claims Independent Views

NC0210154393 Baku TURAN in English 1243 GMT
2 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October 2 (TURAN)—"In case if I win presidential elections I will leave the party 'Yeni Azerbaijan'," said G. Aliyev during his today's meeting with foreign monitors and journalists, which had arrived in Baku in connection with presidential elections.

G. Aliyev stated "he represents none of the political or social organizations in the elections but he comes out as independent political figure". As G. Aliyev told "all the nominees are created equal conditions for holding pre-election campaign".

Speaking about his programme G. Aliyev stressed, legally Azerbaijan had found its independence, but now it had to be filled with real meaning.

G. Aliyev pointed Azerbaijanians entering into the CIS did not infringe the interests of the Republic. "Azerbaijan will not be a vassal any more and will not enter into any state. Azerbaijan will not come back to the Communism", he said. G. Aliyev noted "restoration of the USSR is utopian".

As G. Aliyev told the grounds of market economy would be created in the country gradually. He told all the conditions for free ownership would be created and the problems of foreign investments would be of great importance. G.

Aliyev pointed "oil is valuable property of the state and we must not waste it as before".

Touching upon Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict G. Aliyev stressed that special hopes are placed on the CSCE. He told "Turkey has to interfere instead of making just statements when occupation of Azeri territories continue".

Aliyev on Significance of Election

NC0310112193 Baku TURAN in English 0919 GMT
3 Oct 93

["Geydar Aliyev: New Era Begins for Azerbaijan From Today"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku, October 3 (TURAN)—"I consider present presidential elections to be a brilliant manifestation of democracy", said Geydar Aliyev today at the electoral district. As G. Aliyev told "The authorities created every conditions for free and democratic will of the nation".

Speaking about the attitude towards his predecessors Ayaz Mutalibov and Abulfaz Elchibey, Geydar Aliyev told "I did not and does not consider them to be my political adversaries, moreover I does not intend to pursue them".

On the question what will you undertake if you be elected the president, Geydar Aliyev told "In case if I be elected I will consider my main problem to be stopping of the war and increasing of people's living standard". He added one of his main tasks would be "liberation of occupied Azeri territories". About the perspectives of Azeri state Geydar Aliyev told "New era begins for Azerbaijan from today".

Aliyev Views Nation's Tasks

LD0310151293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1301
GMT 3 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sevinj Abdulayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku October 3 TASS—Azerbaijan is now faced with a lot of problems that require the speediest resolution and the election of a new president of the republic will become an important step along the way, said parliament chief Geydar Aliyev said on Sunday afternoon when casting vote at one of polling stations here.

Aliyev believes that the republic should be taken out of a state of war, its territorial integrity ensured, the occupied territories freed, and refugees enabled to return to their homes. He regards as no less important a solution to matters connected with ensuring internal political stability and leading the economy out of stagnation.

Aliyev emphasised that he believes in the wisdom of the people who will elect a worthy head of state capable of leading Azerbaijan out of the political and socio-economic crisis.

According to the Central Electoral Commission, 68.7 per cent of the electorate cast their votes by midday Sunday.

Further on Aliyev's Views*LD0110163693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1503 GMT 1 Oct 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Schulman]

[Text] Baku October 1 TASS—The primary wealth of Azerbaijan is various peoples and ethnic groups living at its territory, said acting Azeri President Geydar Aliyev, addressing a meeting of representatives of ethnic minorities held within the framework of his pre-election campaign on Friday.

Aliyev stated his ideas on national policy based, as he emphasized, on "principles of concord and unity between all the citizens of Azerbaijan, irrespective of their nationality, political convictions and religious beliefs".

If he is elected president, he promised to give a top priority to correcting the blunders in the field of international relations within Azerbaijan, which were made by the former leadership of the republic.

He described isolation and alienation of the peoples from each other as "morbid" processes.

On the other hand, in his opinion, "every people strives for getting back to its origins, its roots, to restore the history of its region, of its land - and it is rather a natural process, which should be encouraged".

Aliyev emphasized that the leadership of the republic will do its best to ensure that all the peoples inhabiting Azerbaijan will enjoy equal rights and opportunities; at the same time, however, the interests of the whole state require them to fulfil their civil duties which consist, first and foremost, in defending the territorial integrity of the country and increasing its economic capacity.

Large Voter Turnout*LD0310171593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1450 GMT 3 Oct 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 3 Oct—In Azerbaijan, 88.5 percent of voters have already turned out in today's election of a head of state. This is the preliminary result of the voting calculated by the Central Electoral Commission by 1600. Polling closes at 2000.

To judge from a report from Nakhichevan only just received (at 1800) by the ITAR-TASS office in Baku, an attempt to disrupt the elections was made by representatives of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan in Ordubad, the administrative center of Nakhichevan's rayon of the same name, where the Popular Front of Azerbaijan remains in power. Ex-president and leader of this social and political movement Abdulfaz Elchibey is known to be still staying in one of the local villages—Keleki. Last night his supporters broke into the local council building and stole

ballot papers. However, as a result of negotiations, these documents were successfully returned by morning.

In spite of a certain tenseness, by 1600 more than 70 percent of people entered on the lists had voted in the Nakhichevan autonomous republic as a whole. Observers who have arrived there, including CSCE representative Jacques Roussilier, have not established any violations of the law on electing the head of state.

APF Members Disrupt Poll Station*NC0310165993 Baku AZERTAC in English 1541 GMT 3 Oct 93*

[Text] Baku, October 3 (AZERTAC)—About 90 per cent of voters have participated in the presidential election going on in Azerbaijan, according to the preliminary data of the election committee. Polling-stations will be being opened till 20.00.

According to the information from Nakhichevan, members of the Azerbaijan Popular [People's] Front, APF, attempted to upset elections in Ordubad town where the APF was still in power. Abulfaz Elchibey, ex-president of Azerbaijan and leader of the Azerbaijan Popular Front, is in Keleki village. Last night his supporters burst into the building of the local Soviet and stole ballot-papers. But after negotiations the documents was given back by morning.

In spite of intensity, more than 70 per cent of electors have voted in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic by 16.00. International observers, including the CSCE representative Mr. Russilie, did not note any violation of the president election law.

Aliyev, Guseynov Vote*NC0310185093 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziya Television Network in Azeri 1615 GMT 3 Oct 93*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] According to information provided by the Central Electoral Commission on Presidential Elections in Azerbaijan, 88.15 percent of the electorate had voted by 1600. Azerbaijani Government leaders voted this morning at polling station 12 in (Sabayi) Rayon.

[Announcer] Some 2,565 voters are registered at polling station 12 at building nine in Sabayi Rayon. Half of them had cast their ballots by 1200.

Various foreign observers were also present at the polling station to observe the course of the presidential elections.

Also observing are representatives of the parties, political movements, and social organizations in the Republic.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Geydar Aliyev, who executes the powers of the Azerbaijani president, voted at polling station 12.

Journalists surrounded him as he entered the polling booth with his voting slip. Later, Aliyev answered questions:

[Aliyev] "Thank you, thank you. [applause]

[Unidentified correspondent] "What are your feelings at this moment, Geydar?"

[Aliyev] "I feel happy because I am among the people and I smile when I see the people smile under these difficult conditions.

[Correspondent] "I hope the journalists will not tire you out.

[Aliyev] "I never get tired of journalists; maybe they get tired of me. [Aliyev laughs]"

[Announcer] Prime Minister Suret Guseynov voted today at [words indistinct] electoral district.

[Correspondent] "Prime Minister Suret Guseynov arrived at polling station 12 at 1150 today. [words indistinct] Suret Guseynov briefly answered correspondents' question and clarified some issues. Who did you vote for, Prime Minister?"

[Guseynov] "I want Geydar Aliyev to be elected [words indistinct]. In the circumstances, there is a need for wise men; I regard Aliyev as such a person. [words indistinct]. Thank you."

[Announcer] State Secretary Lala Shovket Gadzhiyeva voted at polling station 12 at building nine in Sabayi Rayon.

[Correspondent] "How do you assess the elections today?"

[Gadzhiyeva] "Very favorably. I am pinning great hopes on the poll result for the future of our people. Thank you." [video shows Aliyev, Guseynov, and Gadzhiyeva voting in their turn, surrounded by citizens and correspondents]

Further on Aliyev, Guseynov Remarks

NC0310190493 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Presidential elections are being held with the active participation of the voters in Azerbaijan today. The Central Election Council has revealed that 68.7 percent of the electorate cast their votes by afternoon. According to our information from various parts of the Republic, over half the citizens on the electoral lists had cast their votes by 1000 this morning. Some 4 million people are taking part in the elections. Voting is taking place in over 3,000 polling stations throughout the Republic. Measures have been taken to enable the approximately 1 million refugees to vote to freely express their will. They are casting their votes in accordance with the electoral lists drawn up for them in the areas where they are living temporarily.

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry has revealed that most of the foreign observers who arrived in Baku on the eve of the presidential elections traveled to the various rayons, including the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, early today. Those who have remained in Baku are following the progress of the elections in the capital. The representatives

of various political parties and movements and foreign correspondents are also following the progress of the elections.

Candidate President Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet and National Assembly, voted at polling station 12, which is in the creative [words indistinct] named after Tofik Ismailov in [name indistinct] District. Aliyev made a brief statement to correspondents before voting. He said Azerbaijan faces many problems, which must be solved urgently. He also said the presidential elections will be an important step in that direction. Aliyev stressed that he is convinced the war situation must be removed, the Republic's territorial integrity must be maintained, and the refugees must be helped to return to their places of birth. He said he also believes that resolving issues relating to establishing political stability in the Republic and removing stagnation from the economy is equally important.

Aliyev said he trusts the people's awareness and believes they will elect the head of state who can remove the political and socioeconomic crisis in Azerbaijan.

State Secretary Lala Shovkat Gadzhiyeva and Prime Minister Suret Guseynov voted at the same polling station. Guseynov made a short statement as usual. He informed correspondents that he voted for Aliyev. Guseynov said he trusts Aliyev's awareness and political experience and regards him as the only statesman able to solve the Republic's innumerable problems.

Undoubtedly, Gadzhiyeva voted for Aliyev. She regards him as Azerbaijan's only leader.

Observers: Election Proceeds 'Satisfactorily'

NC0310192393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] A group of international observers arrived in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] today. [name indistinct], representative of the CSCE Human Rights Department, Jonathan Stanley, British representative of the Helsinki Group, French Ambassador to Azerbaijan Jean Perrin, and others are among the group. They visited various rayons in the NAR for several hours. They believe the elections there are being held in a generally peaceful atmosphere. No gross violation of the law has been registered.

The observers said there is tension in NAR's Ordubadskiy and Dzhul'fa Rayons. The Azerbaijani People's Front representatives control the local assemblies in the two rayons. They have tried to disrupt the elections. Contrary to their promise, they failed to prepare a polling station. A group of supporters of former President Abulfaz Elchibey switched off the lights in the building housing the People's Assembly in Ordubad last night. They penetrated the building and stole the electoral bulletins. Talks were held and the bulletins were retrieved before daybreak. The elections were held normally.

Perviz [name indistinct], chairman of the NAR Central Election Council, said 70.3 percent of the electorate, that is, 125,291 people, cast their votes in the NAR's nine electoral districts by 1600 [1200 GMT] today.

According to the international observers, the elections are progressing satisfactorily. For example, [name indistinct] has said Azerbaijan's people can freely elect the legal head of state by expressing their will without being forced to do so. Undoubtedly, Geydar Aliyev, a renowned political figure, will be elected president.

Over 96-Percent Voter Turnout

*NC0310200393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1900 GMT 3 Oct 93*

[Text] According to a report we have just received from the Central Election Council, over 96 percent of the people who are eligible to vote have participated in the presidential elections in the Republic today.

Aliyev Elected President

*LD0410093093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0848
GMT 4 Oct 93*

[Text] On October 3, Azerbaijan's current leader Geydar Aliyev was elected president. A representative of the Central Electoral Commission, who preferred to remain anonymous, informed INTERFAX that out of the 97

of the population who came to the polling stations, 90

cast their votes for Aliyev.

The two other candidates, psychologist and chairman of the United Azerbaijan Party, Kerrar Abilov, and entrepreneur an vice-chairman of the Gummet Party, Zakir Tagiyev, were far behind.

PFA Members, Turk Reportedly Try To Kill Aliyev 1 Oct

*NC0210152593 Baku TURAN in English 1243 GMT
2 Oct 93*

[Text] Baku, October 2 (TURAN)—During today's press-conference for local and foreign journalists Parliament Chairman of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev reported, two days ago several unknown persons had been seized in front of the parliament building. They tried to make an attempt upon Geydar Aliyev's life. One of them found out to be the citizen of Turkey, the rest members of the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan]. As G. Aliyev told they had guns and grenades.

In his talk with TURAN's correspondent Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Altan Karamanoglu expressed bewilderment about G. Aliyev's information on Turkish citizens participation in that accident. "I have been known about that just now at press-conference. But there is a rule in line with which Embassy has to be informed about the incident citizens of the country representing this or that embassy involved in."

[In a related report, Baku AZERTAC in English at 1208 GMT on 2 October adds the following: "At night of 1 October the police of the Azerbaijan Republic averted an attempt on the Geydar Aliyev's life. According to the unverified official data, four terrorists were arrested at the Azerbaijan Broadcasting Company situated near the parliament, the Geydar Aliyev's residence he used to leave early at morning.

"The police confiscated terrorists weapon and grenades. As it became known, one of the terrorists is a citizen of Turkey and others are members of the Azerbaijan Popular [People's] Front. According to the unofficial sources, the terrorists have close links with the pointed 'Boz Gourd' 'Grey Wolves Organization.'"

"An investigation is being conducted, measures are being taken to strengthen the parliament defence."

Nagorno-Karabakh Cease-Fire Reportedly Holding

*LD0110213493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410
GMT 1 Oct 93*

[By ARMENPRES-TASS]

[Text] Yerevan October 1 TASS—The situation in the area of the Azeri-Karabakh confrontation over the past 24 hours is reported unchanged, a correspondent of the ARMENPRES learned from Nagorno-Karabakh press and information department.

The warring sides are reported to observe a truce agreement, the report said.

Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh Accept New Proposals

*LD0110224193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1852
GMT 1 Oct 93*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: "Yerevan And Stepanakert Accept New Schedule For Karabakh]

[Text] Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh have accepted a new schedule for Karabakh settlement, writes the newspaper ERKIR published in Yerevan. This schedule was discussed during unofficial consultations between the members of the CSCE Minsk Group which ended in Paris on September 29.

According to the new schedule, writes the ERKIR, a meeting to prepare the Minsk conference is to be held on October 10 to 20.

On October 23, the Karabakh leaders are to state their readiness to withdraw their troops from the occupied territory. The withdrawal of the troops from Azerbaijan's Kubatly region is to begin the next day.

On October 26, the gas pipeline laid from Azerbaijan to Armenia and Nakhichevan is to be put into service. On the same day, the Karabakh forces' withdrawal from the Agdam region is to begin.

On October 28, POW's and hostages are to be exchanged and, the next day, the withdrawal of the Armenian formations is to begin from the Fizuli region and the highway linking Kazakh (Azerbaijan) and Idzhevan (Armenia), which has not functioned for more than two years, is to be opened.

On November 2, a three-day conference on settling the Karabakh conflict is to open in Minsk. On the same day, the withdrawal of the Armenian forces from Azerbaijan's Jebail region, and on November 7 from the Kelbajar region is to be started. By November 10, the restoration of the roads and communication lines hitherto blocked, is to be completed.

At the beginning of November, CSCE observers are to be sent to the conflict zone.

Chairman of Kyrgyz Parliament Meditkan Sherimkulov, who led the inter-parliamentary group for a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict from September 18 to 24, believes that the prolongation of armistice between the conflicting parties is a way out of the crisis.

In an official interview circulated by the press center of the Council of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, he stated that mediatory and peacekeeping forces should be more actively involved in the solution of this problem. Sherimkulov also said that the problem of refugees had become extremely acute and that a large-scale regional war might flare up if active peacekeeping efforts were not made.

In his opinion, Azerbaijan's membership in the CIS creates favorable conditions for the settlement of the conflict.

200 Russian Officers Reportedly Arrive in Baku
NC0210092193 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish
1 Oct 93 p 14

[Report by Irfan Sapmaz: "200 Russian Officers Arrive in Baku"]

[Text] Baku—It has been discovered that 200 Russian officers have arrived in Baku after Azerbaijan signed the collective security agreement and joined the CIS. It has also been discovered that the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry is working on the transfer of Russia's military units to the Republic in groups and that one of the buildings under the Defense Ministry's jurisdiction in Baku has been allocated for the Russian military units. Meanwhile, there have been reports that Russia will dispatch the 10,000 troops it will withdraw from Lithuania to Azerbaijan during the next few days. It has been discovered that several Russian units will be deployed in "Kabale," where one of the former Soviet Union's largest radar installations is situated.

The radar installations in Kabale are guarded very effectively. Electromagnetic waves are used to prevent anyone from entering the area. The installations are in a forest on a large mountain. The military experts have described the importance of the installations as one of the reasons why Russia has been reluctant to allow Azerbaijan to move outside its sphere of influence.

Meanwhile, the United States is reported to be worried by the redeployment of Russia's military units in the Caucasus.

Official Denies Report on Aliyev-Ciller Phone Call

LD0110192793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1447 GMT 30 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 30 Sep—The question of stationing peacekeeping forces with the participation of the United States, Turkey, and other Western countries in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which the Turkish newspaper HURRIYET hastened to report, was not discussed during the telephone conversation between Acting Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. A TASS correspondent learned this today from Namik Akhundov, head of the international relations department of the republic's Supreme Soviet. He said this conversation took place three days ago; however, he does not consider it necessary to spell out its contents and stressed only that it has nothing to do with the above-mentioned question.

Georgia

Former Chairman: Gamsakhurdia Allied With Abkhazians

LD0110161393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 gmt 1 Oct 93

[Text] KONTAKT news agency [words indistinct] it concerns Tamaz Nadareishvili, former chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Abkhazia.

Answering the question: Do you think if there is an alliance between the Gamsakhurdia forces and the Abkhaz side? Nadareishvili answered: I have information that Gamsakhurdia's two supporters were visiting Gudauta and Tkvarcheli at the order of the leadership. They met with Abkhazians in Moscow and agreed that they would fight together against the state forces but they could not agree on the Gali rayon. Ardzinba suggested assistance under the condition that the border ran on the Enguri river but the Gamsakhurdia supporters disagreed because they did not want to give up Gali. It happened several months ago but I do not know what they have agreed on now, Tamaz Nadareishvili said.

Tbilisi Deplores Gamsakhurdia Supporters' Actions

LD0110173493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Statement issued by the Interior Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] On 30 September 1993 in Zugdidi, members of armed units of the ex-president's supporters detained

Police Major General Gia Gulua, deputy Georgian interior minister and head of the transport police. He was returning from Abkhazia where he fought for Georgia's freedom and territorial integrity.

We consider the detainment of a top official of the Georgian police and a fighter devoted to the freedom of his motherland and the unlawful actions taken against him to be a challenge by the destructive forces, the forceful opposition to the leadership and law enforcement bodies of the republic. Forces stationed in Zugdidi and their leaders fail to foresee the possible outcome of this action.

The Georgian Interior Ministry demands categorically that Gulua be freed as soon as possible. Otherwise, we are retaining the right to carry out appropriate measures against the inspirers and executors of this lawless and shameful action.

[Signed] The Georgian Interior Ministry

Zviad Gamsakhurdia's Supporters Continue Advances

Zviadists Seize Poti

LD0210084593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0743 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Report by correspondent Zurab Dvali in Tbilisi]

[Text] At dawn today units under the command of Tengiz Kitovani and formations of Zviadists [supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia] attacked the town of Poti from various sides and then occupied it. Government forces suffered dead and wounded.

We have been told by the duty officer in the town department of the Interior Ministry in Poti that Tengiz Kitovani, himself, is at the moment in the mayor's building. So, this is the start of civil war.

After the seizure of Sukhumi, it now seems that units of Gamsakhurdia's supporters will move deep into the territory of Georgia and, in particular toward Kutaisi. We managed to contact the Mayor of Kutaisi Taymur Shashiashvili, who said that in conditions where the whole town has been mobilized to aid the refugees from Abkhazia, the supporters of the former president are taking advantage of the occasion and are trying to carry out their adventurist plans. In spite of this, Shashiashvili stressed, we will show the most resolute opposition to these forces.

There has not yet been any official reaction from the Georgian leadership in connection with these events. But one thing can be said for sure: That the destructive forces among the supporters of the former president have done everything to start a fratricidal war. It is also evident that the Abkhazian separatists and the Zviadists are acting in accordance with one common policy, whose final aim is to remove Eduard Shevardnadze from the political arena as certain external forces cannot forgive his policy for its too pro-Western leaning.

[Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0800 GMT on 2 October adds the following: "Armed supporters of ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia have taken control of Poti airport. According to unverified reports, subunits under the command of Tengiz Kotovani took part in these actions together with Loti Kabalia's troops."]

Batiashvili Urges Full Mobilization

LD0210115793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Units of Vakhtang Kobalia loyal to former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia today captured the port town of Poti after a two-hour battle with government troops. INTERFAX was told at the press center of the head of the Georgian state that talks are currently taking place at the mayor's office in Poti between representatives of the local authorities and the Zviadists.

Irakli Batiashvili, head of Georgia's information and intelligence service, declared in Tbilisi that the Zviadists' attack on Poti was a continuation of the joint plan for military operations in Abkhazia. According to him, it is now necessary to mobilize the whole of Georgia for the fight against the enemy.

According to reports from Tbilisi, Jaba Ioseliani, leader of the paramilitary Mkhedrioni organization, was today appointed representative of the temporary committee for the emergency situation in Georgia, by order of Eduard Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze Confirms Fall of Poti

LD0210122593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1207 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 2 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze has confirmed the fact that the Black Sea town of Poti has been captured by Zviadists. He told ITAR-TASS by telephone that the frenzied attack on the town from two sides by forces loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia did not leave the town leaders any choice but surrender. Shevardnadze stressed, however, that unfortunately "it has to be stated that the same forces that had played the decisive role in storming Sukhumi took part in battles for capturing Poti."

Zviadists Capture Khoni

LD0310092193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 3 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Tbilisi October 3 TASS—Armed groups of Zviadists—supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia—seized control of the Khoni district centre (formerly Tsulukidze) on Sunday morning, Georgian radio reported.

This information was confirmed at 10.00 by an officer on duty at the headquarters of government troops in the city of Samtredia which is so far controlled by the present government of Georgia.

It is not ruled out that Zviadistas will seize control of Samtredia soon, since the city has no necessary forces to defend itself, the officer told ITAR-TASS.

Thus, as of today, Zviadistas and their forces are in control of nine cities and districts of western Georgia, including the port city of Poti, as well as Zugdidi, Senaki, etc.

Official: Russians, Chechens With Zviadists

LD0310145493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Zaza Bilikhodze, an official of the Georgian Interior Ministry's press center, informed KONTAKT news agency from Samtredia this morning that the ex-president's supporters captured the town of Khoni [former Tsulukidze, 15 miles northwest of Kutaisi]. They entered an absolutely undefended town having encountered no resistance. Zviad Dzidziguri, former prefect of Samtredia, led the forces which captured Khoni. Some 150 men with two tanks and Grad-type launchers entered the town.

The situation in Samtredia [railway junction 30 miles west of Kutaisi] is tense but controllable. A 500-men-strong armed unit has been observed concentrating in the direction of Samtredia and Kutaisi.

According to operative reports, there are Russian officers and Chechen fighters [boyeviki] in the ex-president's armed forces.

In order to increase the grief of refugees fleeing from Abkhazia—and what is more, to provoke anti-government sentiments in them—Gamsakhurdia's units are not letting refugees reach Zugdidi and are forcing them make a long detour before reaching safety. All this is aggravated by severe weather conditions characteristic of Svaneti. It began to rain and even snow. You all know what has been happening in recent days, and all this resulted in the death of several people, mostly babies. They cannot survive snow, frost, starvation, and tiresome movement.

There are official government troops stationed in Samtredia capable of responding any attackers as they deserve.

The report also says that these are not the only indications that the forces supporting the ex-president are not concerned about the people. An obvious example of this is the artillery fire they opened on Poti yesterday. Most of the wounded were civilians.

Tbilisi Claims Recapture of Khoni

AU0410101393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0914 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] This morning, Major General [word indistinct] Lanchava informed us from Samtredia that, yesterday, units of internal troops and Mkhedrioni [paramilitary group recently incorporated into the Rescue Corps] liberated the town of Khoni. They confiscated weapons and combat equipment from the opposite side.

Zviadists Reportedly Control Most of Western Region

LD0310172393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Saturday evening the armed units of those who support the ex-President, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, established control over the city of Khoni in Western Georgia, 30 kilometers off Kutaisi. INTERFAX learned from the press center of Georgia's Interior Ministry. The local police put up no resistance.

The same day Gamsakhurdia loyalists seized the Black Sea port of Poti. According to the press center, as a result of their attack on the city its defenders lost 6 men; more than 60 persons, civilians among them, were wounded.

The ex-President's supporters demanded that the authorities of Samtredia and Kutaisi surrender their cities and open the road to Tbilisi. They threatened that, unless their ultimatum is accepted, Kutaisi and Samtredia will be taken by storm. Georgia's Defence Minister, Georgiy Karkarashvili, is in charge of Kutaisi's defence.

At the moment the ex-President's supporters are in control of virtually the whole of Western Georgia, including the cities of Zugdidi, Poti, Khobi, Abasha, Senaki and Khoni.

In the meantime the Georgian leader, Eduard Shevardnadze, urged Gamsakhurdia loyalists to stop military actions in Western Georgia till the refugees from Abkhazia are evacuated from the mountains of Svanetia. In an appeal published Saturday evening Shevardnadze pointed out that otherwise the refugees will be faced with death. The Georgian leader proclaimed Svanetia as an area of national disaster and urged the neighbor countries and the world community to give aid in the efforts to evacuate the refugees. According to reports from Tbilisi, the number of those who fled to the mountains of Svanetia surpasses 100 thousand people. Georgia's parliament sent a similar appeal to the parliaments of other countries.

As the chairman of the provisional headquarters for evacuating the refugees, Boris Salaridze, said in an interview for Georgian TV, last night 5 refugees died as a result of cold and hunger. According to him, two helicopters arrived from neighboring Armenia to join the evacuation operation.

Gamsakhurdia Urges Shevardnadze 'Junta' To Resign

AU0110183493 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 29 Sep 93 p 7

[Wojciech Jagielski report: "I Will Govern"]

[Text] "A new civil war and collapse threaten Georgia. This can only be avoided if Shevardnadze's junta steps down and the rightful authorities are restored to power in Tbilisi. I shortly intend to move to Tbilisi along with my government," is what President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was deposed in 1992, told a GAZETA special correspondent yesterday. A couple of weeks ago, Gamsakhurdia

returned to Georgia and announced that he will proceed to Tbilisi soon to take over power.

"I will immediately call new parliamentary elections and form a cabinet of national unity," is what he said in an interview for GAZETA. "Representatives of all parties that reject war as a method of political struggle will be able to enter the government."

"I am ready to engage in civilized dialogue with everyone. Even Shevardnadze will be able to find a place for himself in the new Georgia if he steps down from the office of head of state, an office that he usurped."

"I see no need for new presidential elections. I am the legal president of Georgia. I do not want a confrontation with Russia or the Caucasus republics. I want talks. The Abkhaz side is ready to talk to us. The present crisis is the result of ignorance on the part of the Shevardnadze junta and the countless mistakes that it has made. I do not think that it will have an opportunity to make more mistakes."

Shevardnadze Urges Zviadists To End Hostilities

LD0310165893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] The head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, has appealed to the armed formations supporting the former president [Zviad Gamsakhurdia] to stop hostilities immediately to allow for the evacuation of refugees from the zone of national disaster, Svaneti [province bordering Abkhazia].

The situation in the disaster area is catastrophic. Dozens of people have died. It has proved impossible so far to provide bread and fuel to the people who are dying from starvation and persecution.

It is still possible to save the refugees if hostilities are stopped immediately and a joint effort is made to save the people in extreme hardship.

All roads leading to the valley must be reopened immediately, including the road to Zugdidi, to evacuate people from the disaster area. Armed forces and equipment, regardless of who controls them, should be used to save our brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren.

To coordinate these issues and to establish appropriate contacts [as received], the prime minister of the Republic of Georgia, Otar Patsatsia, is going to Kutaisi today.

Abkhaz Forces Eliminating Last Strongholds

LD0210181093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1744 GMT 2 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi October 2 TASS—Abkhazian forces are eliminating the remaining Georgian strongholds and are strengthening their positions along the Inguri River, the border with Georgia, according to the press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet.

It said remaining Georgian forces in the Gulripsh district are being eliminated and a Georgian force in the settlement of Lata in Ochamchira district had been blocked.

Tbilisi's Last Units Leave Abkhazia

LD0110160293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] The last Georgian units left Abkhazia at about 5 p.m. September 30. Unofficial sources in Tbilisi told INTERFAX that this followed negotiations between Abkhazian officials and the authorities of the Gali District, the last Abkhazian area where Georgian troops still stayed.

In the course of negotiations Abkhazians demanded complete withdrawal of Georgian troops and free passage for a small Abkhazian unit through the town of Gali to a bridge across the Inguri river. They guaranteed safety for the civilian population if these conditions were accepted.

The Gali authorities did accept them.

Once Georgian troops withdrew across the river, Abkhazian units raised an Abkhazian flag on the bridge.

Georgian troops entered Abkhazia (where Georgians account for 46 percent of the population, 17 percent being Abkhazians and the others Russians, Armenians, Greek and others) on August 14, 1992 under a pretext of guarding roads against sabotage by supporters of the deposed president Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Abkhazian militias resisted the invasion.

This was preceded by growth of tension between the Georgians and Abkhazian leaders of the republic.

The Abkhazian parliament, in the absence of Georgian deputies, reinstated on July 23 the 1925 Abkhazian Constitution. By that document the republic was "a sovereign state which holds state authority in its territory independently of any other authority."

Parliament changed the republic's name from Abkhazian SSR to Republic of Abkhazia.

Tbilisi and Georgian deputies of the Abkhazian parliament declared all these decisions null and void.

The Georgian State Council imposed the state of emergency in Abkhazian railroads on August 11, 1992 in the aftermath of continuous acts of sabotage and attacks on trains in Western Georgia and three days later sent troops to Abkhazia to prevent such activities there.

By early September 1992 the Georgian army established control over Sukhumi and the Ochamchira, Gali, Gulripsh and Gagra Districts of Abkhazia. Abkhazian forces entrenched in the Gudauta District and the mining town of Tkvarcheli.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and the Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba agreed in Moscow on a ceasefire.

The ceasefire was broken, however, in mid-September. Abkhazian units overran the town of Gagra on October 2

and somewhat later the entire north of Abkhazia up to the Russian border. These positions did not change until July 1993 when Abkhazian forces crossed the Gumista river and approached Sukhumi.

Another ceasefire was agreed, with Russian brokerage, in Sochi in July 27. Abkhazian troops broke the agreement on September 16. Eleven days later Abkhazian forces captured Sukhumi and then the Gulripsh, Ochamchira and Gali Districts. They reached the Inguri river on the border with Georgia in the afternoon of September 30.

Abkhazia's Ardzinba Favors Talks With Tbilisi

LD0210161593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1435 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Abkhazian armed formations have blocked a grouping of Georgian army, retreating from Abkhazia's Gulripsh region, near the populated center of Lata. On Saturday morning the Abkhazians are combing the mountainous regions in the Gulripsh region and reinforcing the border with Georgia along the Inguri river.

Meanwhile, in his exclusive interview with Interfax Chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Vladislav Ardzinba expressed satisfaction saying that "peace has established in Abkhazia after a year and two months of war, people are no more hiding in undergrounds awaiting to be arrested."

He pointed out that a referendum is to be shortly held in Abkhazia, the republic will adopt a new Constitution and define relations with the neighboring states. "Unfortunately, there still exists a threat of an attempted military revenge on the part of Georgia." Ardzinba proposed to the Tbilisi authorities to start negotiations in order to rule out possibility of an aggression in the future.

According to Ardzinba, he addressed the Russian government with a proposal to remove sanctions with respect to Abkhazia introduced after September 16 (the beginning of the Abkhazian offensive in the conflict zone - Interfax) due to the cessation of hostilities in this region.

The Abkhazian leader underlined that "this was a liberating war and any talks on planned crossing of the border via the river of Inguri to Georgia are just groundless."

Shevardnadze Comments on Sukhumi, Russia's Stance

PM0110141693 Paris LE FIGARO in French 1 Oct 93 p 3

[Interview with President Eduard Shevardnadze by Philippe Gelie in Tbilisi; date not given]

[Text] [Gelie] What did those 11 days spent in Sukhumi under siege mean to you?

[Shevardnadze] For me, as for all the Georgians, Sukhumi was a very important symbol. As far back as five months ago I said that if the city fell into the hands of the Abkhaz rebels—which seemed to us, back then, to be impossible—such an event could unleash the disintegration of Georgia.

So you can imagine what I suffered and lived through in that city. It was a very painful time.

[Gelie] Were you afraid for your life?

[Shevardnadze] Fear is not a characteristic feeling for me. Maybe that is unusual, but it is true.

[Gelie] You said that Georgia must regain Sukhumi. When?

[Shevardnadze] We will have to do it as soon as the country has recovered its strength and as soon as we have normalized our relations with Russia. I repeat here that, were it not for Russia's betrayal, the city would not have fallen.

[Gelie] Which is more urgent: to retake Sukhumi, or to settle the question of relations with Russia?

[Shevardnadze] It is difficult to set priorities as regards time. Both tasks are essential. But unless Russia changes its attitude toward us, it will be very difficult to regain Sukhumi.

[Gelie] You spoke of betrayal?

[Shevardnadze] The agreement signed 27 July under Russia's patronage guaranteed the end of the aggression (by the Abkhaz rebels—LE FIGARO editor's note). It was not complied with.

[Gelie] When you talk about Russia, are you referring to Boris Yeltsin, the Supreme Soviet, or certain army elements?

[Shevardnadze] Vladislav Ardzinba's regime and reactionary circles in Russia resemble each other like peas in a pod. The former is the pupil of the latter, who, in return, support him politically and militarily. But Yeltsin cannot be acquitted in this matter. When an agreement is signed between two states, and especially when it is broken, the head of state cannot disclaim responsibility.

[Gelie] What is your own share of the responsibility?

[Shevardnadze] I am responsible for absolutely everything. In any case, I am responsible for having trusted Russia.

[Gelie] Is dialogue with the Abkhaz rebels possible?

[Shevardnadze] They are murderers and fascists. I would find it difficult to engage in discussion with them...

[Gelie] Can Georgia's joining the CIS be envisaged?

[Shevardnadze] When I came to power I believed that entering the CIS was inappropriate because the people were hostile to it. In Sukhumi I said that I accepted this option because I was virtually on my knees. I wanted to save the city. But today, after what happened down there—and especially after Russia's betrayal, I believe Georgia should not join the CIS.

[Gelie] In these conditions, how can relations with Moscow be normalized?

[Shevardnadze] It will be very hard. Unless good relations are established with Russia, the situation will deteriorate.

[Gelie] What do you fear?

[Shevardnadze] Civil war or the disintegration of the country.

[Gelie] Have you spoken with Boris Yeltsin since your return to Tbilisi?

[Shevardnadze] No. I telephoned him from Sukhumi but he did not reply. Perhaps he did not have the time...

[Gelie] What options does Georgia have today?

[Shevardnadze] We are completely alone face to face with Russia that is a fact. We are in for some hard times. We have lost our last reinforcements in Abkhazia. It is already cold in the mountains where 80,000 starving refugees have fled. They are old people, women, and children, many of whom are going to die. I think that God will perhaps punish those who have plunged our country into this tragedy.

[Gelie] Can you come to the refugees' aid?

[Shevardnadze] We have some means at our disposal. But these people are afraid: They have scattered into the forests and it is going to be very difficult to bring them together again and then give them shelter—we have many refugees already.

[Gelie] You say that this tragedy threatens to cause the disintegration of Georgia. Why?

[Shevardnadze] The virus of separatism is going to grow in different parts of the country. Helped by events, former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia has returned to Mingrelia. He has begun governing that region with his guerrillas. That could happen elsewhere.

[Gelie] How will you respond to Mr. Gamsakhurdia's return?

[Shevardnadze] I cannot tell you precisely what we are going to do at the moment. His latest call was: "Let us go to Abkhazia and fight!" We shall see whether he has really understood the motherland's interests. If on the other hand he marches on Tbilisi there will be a bloodbath.

[Gelie] Do you envisage meeting with him?

[Shevardnadze] For the moment I am not ready to do that and I am not sure if he wants it. He has already said so many dreadful things about the legitimate government of Georgia! He is a populist: He will try to take advantage of our weaknesses. The country's economy is almost ruined: He will try to take advantage of the famine and cold and make wild promises.

[Gelie] Would you have hoped for firmer support from the Western powers?

[Shevardnadze] Of course, the West could have done much more. For example, by sending larger quantities of peace-keeping forces. But they thought that the republics of the former USSR were a zone of exclusive Russian influence.

[Gelie] Are you, as a former diplomat, fated to become a warlord?

[Shevardnadze] I am not going to change. I have already changed when I abandoned communist ideology and when Mikhail Gorbachev and I set about democratizing the USSR and putting an end to the Cold War. Deep down inside me this was a revolution. By nature and faith, I will never agree to be a warlord now.

[Gelie] You wanted to stay in Sukhumi to the bitter end. Will you remain in Georgia to the end?

[Shevardnadze] When I agreed to return to my country it was a little like committing suicide. Nevertheless I came back and will never leave this land again.

Shevardnadze Arrives in Kutaisi

LD0110171793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408
GMT 1 Oct 93

[By GIA-TASS]

[Text] Kutaisi October 1 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Kutaisi on Friday.

He is expected to meet and have talks with representatives of the city administration, law enforcement bodies and the command of Georgian military units stationed in the region.

During the talks the sides are expected to discuss the maintenance of law and order in the city in accordance with a state of emergency introduced in Georgia, preparations for meeting and accommodating refugees from Abkhazia, reinforcing the city's defence and other problems which arose in western regions of the republic.

Urges Citizens To Join Home Guard

LD0210160593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1435
GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze views events taking place in Georgia as "private pain" because he has promised to the people that "the cities of Sukhumi, Gulripsh, and Ochamchira would not be surrendered to the enemy." He voiced this statement in Kutaisi addressing a conference held with the city's leadership, representatives of law enforcement bodies of this western region of Georgia, and the command of Georgian armed forces stationed there. The conference has also considered issues related to rendering aid to refugees from Abkhazia who are staying in the mountains of Svanetia now.

Shevardnadze underlined that "he could not even imagine the scale of betrayal, perfidy, and treachery" of the enemy which forced 200,000 Georgians "to become refugees on their own land."

"Events in Abkhazia have demonstrated that we are not ready to defend our homeland and we must make corresponding conclusions and create a reliable mechanism to defend the country in the near term," declared the Georgian leader. In his opinion, first of all "it is necessary to work a state-like approach to formation of the army, let it be small in number, but well trained." On the other hand, the Georgian leader indicated, all citizens of the republic must join the home guard, if the need arises, "as in Switzerland and Israel."

It was also announced that first parties of medicines, warm clothing, and food products have already been sent to Svanetia. In addition, 30,000 families in Kutaisi express readiness to receive refugees.

On Saturday afternoon Shevardnadze is expected to conduct an analogical conference in Tbilisi.

Shevardnadze Asks Russia To Help Avert Civil War
LD0210184993 Hamburg DPA in German 1752 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tbilisi (DPA)—Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze today asked Russia for help to avert an imminent civil war. In an interview with DPA, he said that over 100,000 refugees are stuck in the mountains of western Georgia having fled from the Abkhaz separatists. Between 200 and 300 have already died at temperatures below freezing. He accused ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia of exploiting the situation.

"The most important factor to relieve the catastrophe remains immediate aid from Russia," Shevardnadze said without stating more precisely whether he means humanitarian or military aid. If this aid does not come, Georgia will face civil war. According to Shevardnadze, the Russian Foreign Ministry is to make a statement on Georgia tomorrow. He himself is waiting to talk by telephone to President Boris Yeltsin. "If an invitation comes from Yeltsin, I will fly to Moscow immediately," Shevardnadze said. "Otherwise, and I repeat this, a civil war is inevitable in Georgia."

Shevardnadze Receives Russian Government Delegation
LD0310201693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1755 GMT 3 Oct 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 3 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, today received a Russian Federation Government delegation which is in Tbilisi for a working visit. The delegation includes Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the State Committee for Emergency Situations; Anatoliy Adamishin, first deputy foreign minister; and Boris Pastukhov, the personal and authorized representative of the Russian president and deputy foreign minister.

The meeting was also attended by Fedor Reut, commander of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus, and Vladimir

Zemskiy, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Georgia. The Georgian side was represented by Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze, and Aleksandr Kavsadze, the personal and authorized representative of the head of state in the conflict zone and chairman of the Committee for Human Rights and Interethnic Relations.

The meeting was held behind closed doors.

Sergey Shoygu told journalists after the meeting that the Russian delegation's mission is to study the complex situation with the refugees from Abkhazia and to draft and submit to the Russian Government specific measures to evacuate and rescue them. He pointed out that he will not comment on political issues, since the task of his service is to save people, irrespective of their nationality.

Speaking about events in Abkhazia, he said Russia has always supported Georgia's territorial integrity and will try to influence the Abkhaz side in order to settle the conflict by peaceful means.

Anatoliy Adamishin stressed that the meeting between the members of the Russian delegation and the Georgian head of state was constructive. He said that it is natural that the meeting focused on the issue of the refugees from Abkhazia and on ways to help the people in need. He said Russia will activate all resources, so that assistance can reach the refugees as quickly as possible.

Shevardnadze Blames Gamsakhurdia for Georgia's Losses
LD0310133493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Late on Saturday evening, Eduard Shevardnadze gave an interview to Georgian television. He gave an estimation of the events in the republic. Here with the details is Nikolay Mamulashvili.

[Mamulashvili] This was probably the first time since Eduard Shevardnadze came to power that he, who for various reasons has always tried to avoid this subject, gave an estimation of the actions of supporters of the former president. He underlined that Zviadists are now stabbing the whole of Georgia in the back. The fall of Sukhumi, the withdrawal of Georgian troops from Abkhazia—all this, according to the head of the state, is due to the of the armed Zviadists. And now, when the whole of Georgia is dealing with the problem of tens of thousands of refugees from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, Gamsakhurdia's supporters are seizing towns and doing everything possible to destabilize the situation in the country.

By the way, on 3 October Kutaisi Mayor Teymuraz Shashvili told me in a telephone conversation said that the town's inhabitants intended to send 60 buses to take refugees who were in Svanetia. As you know, Shevardnadze has proclaimed this a national disaster area. The mayor continued that it is impossible to do this at the moment because they have learned that Gamsakhurdia's supporters have cut roads and intend to move to Kutaisi.

The town is fortified quite well, Shashiashvili said, adding that all regions of Georgia should now stay in opposition to Gamsakhurdia's armed formations.

As far as Kutaisi is concerned, Shevardnadze said in the interview that they are transferring additional military forces to Kutaisi, including the units of the 1st Army Corps which fought in Abkhazia. The head of the state appealed to the supporters of the former president to stop and change their mind. He said that if they do not do this, they will be responsible for possible painful consequences. People often accuse me of being too loyal and too mild, Shevardnadze said. But let them not worry about it, he said in conclusion. When time comes to punish traitors and betrayers, I will not hesitate to do so. Nikolay Mamulashvili, IPRINDA agency, for the information service.

Shevardnadze Decree on 'Urgent' Help for Refugees

LD0210092793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The head of state's decree on urgent measures to move refugees and servicemen from Abkhazia and for accommodation for them:

Tens of thousands of people have become refugees due to the most complicated and tragic situation in Abkhazia. To secure an urgent settlement of this major national and state deed of moving refugees and servicemen from the zone of calamity and providing them with accommodation, I demand categorically: The Cabinet of Ministers, the heads of ministries, enterprises, departments, associations of businessmen, and chairmen of local councils, take urgent and immediate measures to move the population that has been forcefully displaced from Abkhazia and accommodate them in towns and rayons of the republic. [passage omitted]

An enlarged meeting of the National Security and Defense Council is planned for tomorrow morning [2 October] on the issues of moving refugees out of Abkhazia and accommodating them. Reports by the heads of corresponding institutions and rayon councils will be discussed.

The slightest lack of attention and responsibility shown by any official regarding the suffering people will result in the most severe punishment, dismissal from jobs, and other extreme measures. [passage omitted: The present state of emergency will secure the implementation of the plans]

I appeal to the population of the republic, towns, and villages to give refuge to our sisters, brothers, children, and grandchildren driven out of Abkhazia.

Eduard Shevardnadze.

Tbilisi Expects 40 Percent of Refugees

LD0210115693 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1025 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tbilisi 2 October—An IBERIA correspondent has been told by the head of the cabinet of ministers Department of Emergency Situations, Refugees and Settling,

Rezo Tkemaladze that their service has been mobilized to receive a new stream of refugees.

A certain number of refugees will be accommodated in various towns and rayons on their way from Abkhazia to Tbilisi. Some of them find shelter with their relatives and friends. Some 40 percent of the refugees are expected in Tbilisi. Mr Tkemaladze said that the local population render great help to refugees coming through mountain paths.

Appropriate services carry out certain work to provide refugees with food and helicopters.

Parliamentarians Appeal for Help

LD0210212993 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1555 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] To the parliaments of all countries of the world: We are appealing to our colleagues, parliamentarians of all countries of the world, to use all available means to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of refugees and civilians of Georgian, Russian, Armenian and other nationalities, who have been forcefully displaced as a result of separatism and an invasion of Georgia.

The state is not capable of evacuating to a safe haven all non-Abkhaz population—women, children, the elderly, the wounded—who are being persecuted as a result of a policy of ethnic cleansing, and cannot provide them with food, clothing, transport, or medical assistance.

We are once again expressing the hope that the civilized world will not remain indifferent to the fate of hundreds of thousands of people who are facing a deadly threat.

Emergency Parliament Session Postponed 'Indefinitely'

LD0310135293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The emergency session of Georgia's parliament, which was scheduled to take place today in Tbilisi, has been postponed indefinitely because of the deterioration of the situation in western Georgia. This was reported by INTERFAX.

Ioseliani Named Head of State of Emergency Committee

LD0210173393 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1555 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] This is a decree by the president [as received] of the Republic of Georgia on the appointment of Jaba Ioseliani [Mkhedrioni militia leader] as chairman of a provisional special [osoby] committee under the Georgian head of state.

1. Georgian Supreme Council member Jaba Ioseliani is to be appointed chairman of a Committee for the State of Emergency, which is effective on the republic's territory [as received].

2. The committee chairman is to nominate members of the committee for confirmation.

3. The committee chairman is to form a working group from [representatives of] ministries and agencies. The working group is to start its work immediately.

Provisional Operational Headquarters Created

LD0310172093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1704 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi October 3 TASS—Chairman of the Provisional Committee on the State of Emergency under the Georgian Leader Dzhaba Ioseliani issued an order to create a provisional operational headquarters to control all organizations of the republican construction complex and coordinate the fulfillment of all the necessary work connected with the state of emergency situation.

Tbilisi Special Services Said Holding Russian Hostages

LD0210052593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2041 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Well informed and reliable sources reported to Interfax that two Russian officers captured in Tbilisi on September 21 are apparently in the hands of Georgia's special services. They made this conclusion on the grounds of a statement the Deputy Chairman of Georgia's Information-Intelligence Service Murman Kalandadze made for the newspaper of the Transcaucasian Group of Russian Forces saying that his department will not present any information on hostages until Russia stops its aid to Abkhazia.

According to the sources, Kalandadze has actually reconfirmed that Georgia's special services have information about the hostages' whereabouts. The wife of one of the hostages has recently received a note thrown into her mail box saying that her husband is alive and healthy.

The source believes that "Kalandadze's attempt to link the problem of freeing hostages with the solution of political issues reminds of pure blackmail."

'Certain Circles' Reportedly Plan Anti-Russia Terror

LD0110183493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1742 GMT 1 Oct 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 1 Oct—The press center of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus has received information from unofficial sources that certain circles in the Republic of Georgia have set up a special group to carry out terrorist acts against the leadership of the Group of

Forces, servicemen and members of their families. In connection with this the press center has made known to the mass media the concern felt by the leadership of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus and has expressed confidence that the republic's official authorities will not permit anything of the sort.

Ioseliani Warns of 'Guerilla War' Against Russia

PM0410112193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov and Petr Karapetyan: "Georgian Parliamentary Deputy Dzhaba Ioseliani Warns of Guerrilla War in Moscow Oblast"]

[Text] In an interview on Georgian Television, Dzhaba Ioseliani, commander of the "Sakartvelos Mkhedrioni" military-patriotic organization, made the following statement: "We cannot wage a war of position with Russia, therefore the question of launching a large-scale guerrilla war becomes relevant. We can conduct guerrilla actions, pulling back just before Moscow [otstupaya vplot do Moskvy]."

Meanwhile, it was not just Russia that the Georgian parliamentarian had in his sights. Dzhaba Ioseliani accused Western countries of being unwilling to help the republic and criticized UN observers for not wanting to enter the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone until there is a complete ceasefire.

Eduard Shevardnadze has also made a statement. "Georgia is just a testing ground for a machine programmed for total imperial revanche."

It seems that Georgia's politicians are not going on from a search for culprits outside to a critical analysis of their own mistakes. There is a hope that such an attempt will be made at an extraordinary session of parliament 3 October. The agenda has not been published but it may be presumed that deputies will discuss the military-political situation in the country and the question of membership of the CIS. But following the fall of Sukhumi this question seems to have been decided in advance—not in favor of membership of the CIS.

According to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's information a serious split has emerged in the leadership of the Georgian Armed Forces. This came about after Tengiz Kitovani assumed the leadership of combat actions in Abkhazia. Colonel Loti Kobalua took offense at this and led his detachments away to Zugdidi.

Meanwhile, the Abkhazians have taken Gali and have moved toward the Georgian border. The number of refugees from Ochamchirskiy and Galskiy Rayons has risen to 120,000, including 58,000 children and 45,000 women. Several women and children were unable to withstand the rigors of the dangerous journey and died on the road to Svantnya...